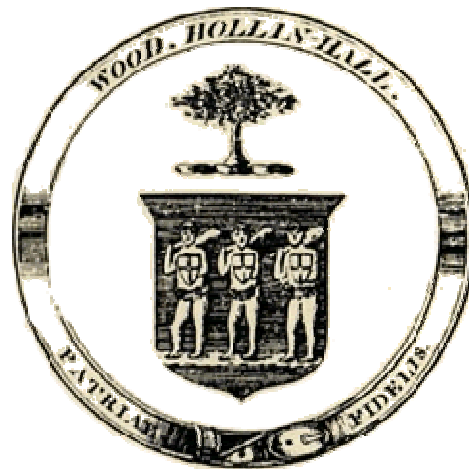


# The Copmanthorpe Story



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The Coat of Arms on the cover of this book is reproduced from the original bookplate used by John Wood, Lord of the Manor of Copmanthorpe from 1709 to 1757.

The bookplate was donated by Mr. Anthony Boynton Wood, the present Lord of the Manor of Copmanthorpe who has very kindly given his permission to use the bookplate in this manner.

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I originally wrote this little book for the benefit of the Copmanthorpe Village Trust, sadly now defunct. There have been many requests since then for the Copmanthorpe Story -so here it is. More information has been found so this book is now in an extended form.

I am particularly grateful to Mr. Anthony Boynton Wood, Lord of the Manor of Copmanthorpe for his original research which has provided such invaluable information about his family and the Lords of the Manor of Copmanthorpe much of which was hitherto unknown. Thanks must also go to the former Copmanthorpe History Group who, many years ago, did a great deal of research. I remember too those residents of Copmanthorpe, many of whom are sadly no longer with us, who have provided first hand accounts of village life in the past.

## THE COPMANTHORPE STORY

Copmanthorpe is situated some 4 miles south-west of York and south of the A64 trunk road. It has grown over the years from a small farming community to the large, thriving and bustling village that it now is. It is in the centre of the Vale of York which at one time was the Humber glacial lake. The north of the parish is bounded by a moraine, a ridge formed of bunter sandstone covered with boulder clay; it rises to 81 feet upon which runs Top Lane, Hallcroft Lane and Colton Lane. To the north is Askham Bog, a nature reserve. In the south the village boundary follows the Foss and at Foss Bridge on Temple Lane the land is 31 feet above sea level. After passing Copmanthorpe Grange, the boundary turns northwards following a dyke to Colton Lane, where it joins the old Roman road.

Until 1983 the parish extended 2 miles north to south and east to west covering 1,658 acres. However, the parish increased in size when land on the other side of Hallcroft Lane and Top Lane up to the A64 was incorporated into Copmanthorpe parish. Previously it had been part of Askham Bryan.

Probably the oldest subject of historical interest is the Roman road which formed the old north westerly boundary. This was part of the Roman highway which runs from York (Eboracum) to Tadcaster (Calcaria) where it joins the main Roman road (Ermin Street) from Lincoln (Lindum), through Doncaster (Danum) Castleford (Legeolium), Tadcaster, Aldborough (Isurium) and the north. Part of the Roman road runs along what is now Top Lane and I have been told

that the Colton Lane crossroads was the north/south - east/west crossing of the Roman network and that cattle were driven down there to the Roman port of Acaster Malbis and thence to the continent. It does seem likely, therefore, that there could have been some sort of settlement here in Roman times particularly as a Pot-sheard was discovered by the side of the road before the war. In 1928 a Stone Axe was found not very far from the roadway. This raises the question as to whether there was a very much earlier settlement in the area.

#### THE DANES

It is also believed that Copmanthorpe was near the east to west Scandinavian to Ribble route in the time of the Danes. No concrete evidence exists but it is a distinct possibility as the Danes occupied York in 866-7 with a Danish Kingdom being established in Yorkshire ten years later. The name of Copmanthorpe adds to this belief as it would seem that in company with other villages on the west side of the Ouse, the ending of -thorpe (the Scandinavian name for an outlying settlement) implied some sort of colonisation and expansion from the city of York itself. In the case of Copmanthorpe, which interpreted means the merchants settlement, it is reasonable to suppose that it was an outlying trading post or resting place on the road to York. As this road, or track, would have been densely wooded and probably full of wild animals, it would be logical that traders could have congregated here and travelled in convoy during the day.

The Danes actually rebuilt the city of York and are known to have cultivated land in the neighbourhood. Further evidence exists to show that the Danish invasions resulted in an increase of trade as many merchants followed the Danish armies. In the late

10th century York is said to have been 'Fantastically stocked and enriched with treasures of merchants who came from all quarters particularly from the Danish people.'<sup>1</sup> (Raine (ed) Historians of the Church of York, 1.454).

CHANGES IN NAME

There have been several changes in the name of the village over the years. We have already discovered that the original name was probably Danish but it became corrupted or altered over the years as *can* be seen from the following list:

Domesday Book	1086-1200
	1190-1210

This was indicative of the hamlet of the Cowpers or tradesmen who would supply the wants of the people of York.

Copmonistorp	1214
Cou pe-Campemant(h) orp	1276
Cop(e)manthorpe	1402
Temple Copmanthorp (e)	1540
Coppenthorpe	1563

In spite of all these changes the name has certainly been in existence for a thousand years. Three other mediaeval names have survived in the village, namely York Field, Temple Field and West Field, known now as Yorkfield Lane, Temple Lane and Westfield Lane.

It is a great pity that nothing remains in the village from any period earlier than the 17th century. Knowing what we do know of Copmanthorpe's history there are many questions that could be asked.

LORDS OF THE MANOR

Copmanthorpe has always been a Manor with a Lord, even to this day. The first recorded Lord of the Manor was an Anglo-Saxon called Gospatric who had one plough on a holding of about 450-500 acres valued at 20 shillings. Gospatric was one of the great Anglo-Saxon Lords and owned vast areas of Yorkshire and whilst the valuation of Copmanthorpe at twenty shillings may not seem very much, York itself at this time was valued at about £50. So even at twenty shillings Copmanthorpe must have been of substantial value to the Lord of the Manor.

History records that in 1069 Sweyn of Denmark fitted out a great fleet which attacked England and its King - William the Conqueror. Sweyn was joined by local forces led by Edgar Atheling, Waltheof and Gospatric, all of whom must have feared losing their lands to Williams lords and barons. The whole Danish force attacked York. The Norman garrison of York resisted the attack and fired most of the city including the Minster, but in spite of all the resistance the city fell. William Malet, the Castellán of York, was taken away by the Danes who left York to their allies and established themselves on the other side of the Humber.

There were many up-risings against the Normans in England at that time and William himself moved north laying waste to large areas of the countryside as he went. History does not record whether this village was included in William's systematic policy of "harrying the North", but as a merchants village or resting place en route to York it seems unlikely that it would have escaped being just another wattle and daub village so easily razed to the ground.

The next reference to the village is in the Domesday Book of 1086, that great survey of the land of England drawn up by order of William the Conqueror. This was intended by him to be a record of his rights, i.e. the income or tax to which he was entitled and the information collected was directed to this end. In the Domesday Book we find that Gospatric had been displaced although the Danish name of Copeman Torp is still retained.

The Manor had now been given to Erneis de Burun, one of Williams Lords who had fought at Hastings under the banner of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. Erneis was Sheriff of Yorkshire from about 1084 and in all he held twenty-two manors. Amongst these were Bingley, Helsingore and Copmanthorpe. The Domesday Book shows that he had two ploughs in Copmanthorpe which was now valued at forty shillings. One must again draw the comparison with York which was valued at one hundred pounds in the Domesday Book. It also shows that inflation is not a new phenomenon and was evident several centuries ago.

The son of the Conqueror himself, Comes Willehmuss is also said to have held 31 carucates of land at Copmanthorpe. (A carucate is the amount of land which a team of oxen could plough in one year. This of course varied according to the district but the average amount seems to have been about 120 acres).

It may seem strange that none of the Lords of the Manor have ever resided in Copmanthorpe but they were either great feudal barons or important landowners who simply regarded the manor as one of their assets. In short, land was an asset from which they drew a dividend in the form of taxes, labour or man-power in times of war or quarrels with their neighbours.



Their status can be seen from their associations with matters of state and self-aggrandizement. Complete details do not exist, but it is possible to list many of the early Lords of the Manor.

- 1086 Erneis de Burun. Said to be an ancestor of Lord Byron. Two extracts in the Domesday Book refer: "Sheriff of Yorkshire circa 1084-1085) Manor. In Copemantorp Gospatric had two carucates and two oxgangs to be taxed. There is land to one plough. Ernegis has there at present two ploughs, and three villanes and two bordars with one plough. Value in King Edwards time twenty shillings now forty shillings." The second extract is similar.
- 1090 Son of Erneis. Supposed to have been cured of epilepsy by a relic of the finger of St. Germain. St. Germain's ruined church stands on the coast at Marske-in-Cleveland.
- Geoffrey Fitz-Payne. In 1132 he founded an Augustinian priory dedicated to St. James at Warter near Pocklington. At its dissolution there were ten canons and revenues estimated at £143. (Kellys Directory of Yorkshire N & E. Ridings 1913), p.624)
- William Trusbutt the Elder, by virtue of marriage to the sister of Geoffrey Fitz-Payne whom he succeeded at Warter in Holderness.
- Ranulph de Meshines. Earl of Chester to whom King Stephen granted the manor by Charter in 1142. With the Empress Maud or Matilda (daughter of flen;yl) he defeated the King at the battle of Lincoln, but later having sided with the King, died, under excommunication in 1155.

- 1166 William Trussbut Nephew of Geoffrey Fitz-Payne.
- 1187-90 Geoffrey Trussbut son of William
- 1193 Robert Trussbut brother of Geoffrey
- 1193-1210 Hilaria Trussbut. Robert Trussbut divided his inheritance between his three sisters, Rose, Hilaria and Agatha. Copmanthorpe, among other things was allotted to Hilaria during the reign of King John. She married Robert de Boullers who died without a male heir so the Copmanthorpe inheritance reverted to her sister Rose.

Date unknown Rose Trussbut married Everard de Ros, Lord of Helmsley whose maternal grandfather was Walter Espec, the founder in 1131 of Rievaulx Abbey. Everard died in 1186 and was succeeded by his son Robert.

- C1186 Robert de Ros who was one of the twenty five barons appointed to enforce the observance of Magna Charta. He founded the castle of Helmsley then called Hamlake, and upon his death in 1227 was buried in the Temple Church in London. In 1183 he married Izabel, natural daughter of William the Lion, King of Scotland and widow of Robert de Bruce (ancestor of King Robert Bruce of Scotland.)
- 1246 William de Ros of Hamlake (d.1258) Son of Robert.
- 1247 By the death of his two great aunts the sisters of his grandmother Rose Trussbut he became sole heir of the baronial estates of Trussbut and Warter and was declared to be heir by Inquisition post mortem 1246.
- William did not hold the manor for very long before giving

it to the Knights Templars. Kirby's Inquest made in about 1284 states - "Coupmanthorpe. In eadem villa v car. terrae et di.; quarum ij car. et di Templarii tenent in liberam elemosinam de don Roberti di Ros de feodo de Trussebut."

The Knights Templars. The Manor was now know as the Manor of Temple Copmanthorpe and the Templars held it until 1312 when they were suppressed and their lands made over to the Knights Hospitallers.

The Knights Hospitallers kept the manor until 1536 when they were dissolved along with the lesser monasteries by Henry VIII

This was just one of the manors of Copmanthorpe. There were in fact two manors, the other being held by the Malbis family but they did, eventually, become one as we shall see later.

The Malbis Family. The earliest reference that has yet been found is in deeds dating about 1190-1210 to a Richard Malbis, followed by an action in 1226 involving a John Malbis. The next reference is to another Richard in 1284 who was the eldest son of Sir William Malbis. Richard died in about 1312 and was succeeded by his son Sir John Malbis who was appointed Sheriff of Yorkshire and Keeper of York Castle in 1314. Sir John had a daughter who married Thomas Fairfax of Walton nr Boston Spa thus connecting the Malbis and Fairfax families. They had a son William Fairfax. Sir Thomas died in 1359.

Sir John Malbis who died about 1365/6 was succeeded by his son William Malbis who was naturally first cousin to William Fairfax above. William Malbis appears to have had four sons of whom only Walter, the youngest, we have any knowledge. It seems from

the records that Walter pledged the Manor of Copmanthorpe to his cousin William Fairfax as security for providing the means of defraying his expenses for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Failure to return from his pilgrimage meant that Copmanthorpe Manor would go to the Fairfax family and this is exactly what happened.

The Fairfax Family. Walter Malbis<sup>1</sup> cousin William Fairfax had, in the meantime died and so when Walter failed to return from the Holy Land, William Fairfax's son Thomas of Walton (d.1370) took the Manor of Copmanthorpe and was eventually succeeded by his son Richard who adopted the name and arms of the Malbis family. Richard (Fairfax) Malbis died in 1401 when his son William was under age. Because of this Richards wife Isabella was not allowed to hold the Manor. William came of age in about 1414 and took the Manor until his death in about 1425. He died without issue and the Manor reverted to his first cousin Richard Fairfax of Gilling.

Richard Fairfax's son William succeeded in 1430. He died in 1453 and his wife Katharine Nevill subsequently married Richard Percy, brother to the Earl of Northumberland.

The next Fairfax to inherit was Williams son, Thomas, who, dying in 1503, was followed by Sir Thomas Fairfax of Gilling Castle. Upon his death at the early age of 45 in 1521, during the reign of Henry VIII, the Manor appears to have been sold to the Vavsours,,

The Vavasour Family. In 1526 Thomas Vavasour of Copmanthorpe was Lord of the Manor. He died in 1558 the first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. A reference in the records of St. Mary's Bishophill, the mother church of St. Giles states:

"On the 6th November, 1558, Thomas Vavasour of Copmanthorpe wills to be burried in the church

of St. Mary Bishophil (the later) and that his son Henry 'do cause one yearly orbit or masse and dirge, within that his parish church, by the pace of twenty years next, after his departure, and then to give and bestow upon the curate, parish clerk and poor people within that church 10s."

Thomas Vavasour was succeeded by his son Henry. It is of interest to note that in 1557 it is recorded that Henry Vavasour in company with Thomas Ward of London was receiving profits from St. Williams College in York.

There is a further reference to the Vavasour family in parish records but this is prior to the Vavasours acquiring the Manor:

"On 16th January, 1544, William Vavasour, priest and Doctor of Divinity wills to be hurried in St. Mary's by the altar of St. Peter on the south aisle."

Another Vavasour made a great impact at the court of Queen Elizabeth I as in 1590 Sir John Stanhope writing to Lord Talbot said -

"Our new mayd Mistress Vavasour flourishethe like the lilly and the rose."

Mistress Vavasour was in great favour with Queen Elizabeth to whom she was lady in waiting and must have been a great beauty for Sir Walter Raleigh wrote a poem to her.

It is recorded in Burke's Peerage 1878 that her distant cousin Sir Thomas Vavsour of Hazlewood Castle, Tadcaster 'so distinguished himself by raising forces and equipping vessels to defend Queen Elizabeth against

-the Spanish Armada that the Queen, in reward of his zeal and out of particular regard for one of her maids of honour who was a Vavasour and acknowledged by her majesty as her kinswoman, would never suffer the chapel at Hazlewood to be molested, where the Roman Catholic rites still continue to be celebrated.'

Sir Thomas Vavasour of Copmanthorpe, Kt., Knight Marshall 1603, succeeded Henry Vavasour as Lord of the Manor. His son William, who was created a baronet in 1643, was Major General to the King of Sweden. He was slain at the seige of Copenhagen and although married had no male issue and thus the baronetcy became extinct in 1659.

Deeds held by the Wood family show that John Barnard of Hull, merchant, was Lord of the Manor in 1651 and it is possible that Sir William Vaesour may have disposed of the Manor to the Barnards during his service with the King of Sweden. The Barnards were eminent merchants of Hull.

The Barnard Family. A release dated 15th March, 1651:

"Sir Michael Livesey Bt. and Sir Richard Sprignall Bt. and Dame Anne his wife, released the Manor of Copmanthorpe and estate there to the use of John Barnard and Mary his wife and their issue."

Sir Michael was one of the regicides, so named for having signed the death warrant of Charles I. He, in fact, had been created a baronet of Copmanthorpe. Sir Richard Sprignall, his son-in-law, had a mansion in Old Highgate, London, to-day called Cromwell House. John Barnard himself was opposed to King Charles and correspondence exists in Harrogate Public Library between him and the sovereign in which he refused him entry to the city when he was Mayor of Hull -an office he held twice.

Upon John Barnard's death in 1654, the Lordship was split between his two daughters and co-heirs, Mrs. Elizabeth Boynton of Burton Agnes and Dame Frances Boynton.

The ancient estate and paternal estate were eventually re-united when Mrs. John Wood inherited from the Boynton ladies in 1709. Mrs. John Wood was a Widow Ingram of Temple Newsam, sister-in-law of the first Viscount Irwin and was a great heiress. She brought her husband John 950 acres with coalfields in Co. Durham and two estates in Copmanthorpe which, according to a Deed of Settlement of 1678 "did descend and come unto Dame Frances Boynton and Elizabeth Boynton of Burton Agnes, the daughters and co-heirs of John Barnard of the Town and County of Kingston-upon-Hull, Merchant." These two ladies were respectively the grandmother and great aunt of Mrs. John Wood.

The Wood Family. In this way the Lordship of the Manor of Copmanthorpe came into the Wood family in 1709, although there is evidence to show that the Woods, one of the oldest landed families with an unbroken male descent from the 12th century, were associated with Copmanthorpe from the early 16th century. For over 400 years the family have borne the Coat of Arms still used to-day. The earliest recorded holder was Anthony Wood of the Ainsty of York who died in 1626 and is interred in a vault in St. Mary Bishophill Junior, York. His arms can be seen at Gilling Castle on a frieze erected in 1586, the year in which his son and heir John was born.

In 1607 John married Dorothy, eldest daughter of Sir Michael Wentworth of Woolley Park, Wakefield. In the marriage settlement provision was made for a jointure out of the estate at Copmanthorpe upon the wife. Sir Michael gave her £300 and for one year, meat, drink, fire and lodging and candles.

An extract from Burkes Landed Gentry quotes that John

was "compounded in the sum of £12 for refusing knighthood at the coronation of Charles I." John died in 1648 and was also interred at Bishophill Junior. He was succeeded by his son John, Freeman of the City of York in 1672 and who became Lord Mayor in 1682. He resided in Upper Ousegate and this residence incurred the biggest Hearth Tax in the city. He died on 9th January, 1704 and there is a marble memorial to him in St. Michaels Church, Spurriergate. He was, unfortunately, predeceased by his son Charles, also a Freeman and Merchant of York, whose son John, christened at Spurriergate Church in 1682, was only two when his father Charles died. Upon this child his Grandfather John entailed the "ancient" estate in his will upon his death in 1704.

John Wood acquired Hollin Hall or Hollin Close Hall as it was, near the city of Ripon in 1719 from the Thomson family. Hollin Hall, a Charles II mansion on late 16th century foundations, with its 1000 acre estate has been the seat of the Boynton Wood family from 1719 until the present day.

John was a Barrister at Law and lived at Red Lion Square, Holborn, and was Treasurer of Lincoln's; Inn in 1748. His arms are emblazoned in the Chapel window there. He acquired the Manor Farm House (now Manor Farm Dairy) in Main Street, in 1709 from the Barnards and a Deed exists dated 18th November, 1710 showing that the house was demolished and rebuilt in that year. It had always been assumed that the Wood family had lived in this house but the present Lord of the Manor Mr. Boynton Wood informs us that this is not so as the Wood family have never lived in the village. It is apparent though that John Wood must have had a particular affinity with Copmanthorpe, for not only did he give the beautiful silver chalice to the Church of St. Giles, but on his death in 1757 he was buried in a vault in St. Giles. Here too lie his son John



Wood Boynton, his daughter Margaret and her husband Captain the Hon. William Norton, R.N. Corroboration of the vault and committals come from the Wood Family Bible which dates from 1666 and is also recorded in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal of 1893.

It shows an unusual degree of humility that so important a man and landowner should elect to be interred in the simple village church of St. Giles for his will dated 15th November, 1756 contains the following extract:

"I desire to be buried in the vault I lately had made in Coppenhorpe Chappel without any kind of pomp".

The site of this vault cannot be seen in the present day although there are two fine memorials on either side of the altar commemorating the Wood family.

The Chalice that John gave to the Church of St.Giles is still used. He donated it four years before his death and it is inscribed:

"The Gift of John Wood Esquire to ye Church of Copmanthorpe 1753."

What is of interest is that this Chalice was actually made in 1640 and one wonders what was its history during the intervening 113 years.

John Wood Boyntons wife Rachel died in York in 1787 and lies with her sisters in the Freeman vault in the 'quire\* of York Minster.

I felt the following extract from the Court Rolls of the Manor of Copmanthorpe in 1779 and 1780 might be of interest. Timothy Mortimer was the steward of the Manor and sat in the seat of judgment on behalf of the Lord of the Manor

Manor of Copmanthorpe Court 14 May 1779. Court Leet and Court Baron of Richard Wood Esq., before Timothy Mortimer (Steward).

1. Jurors sworn - list
2. Call Roll - same date.  
13 Lease holders names, 25 tenants names, 6 Cottagers upon the Waste named
3. Presentments (same date)

Every person within the manor shall

1. Keep up their several fences and scoure and cleanse the several ditches about their forefronts and backfronts upon penalty for every default of each person 5s.
2. Keep pigs sufficiently wrung
3. Not suffer geese to go about the town streets, for each goose penalty is
4. Not to "plow" up any part of the "Balks" other than their own  
Not to lead manure along balks unless it be a carriage road Not to tether any cattle on balks 5s.
5. Ditch from Copmanthorpe Street Gate to Coulton Hagg Gate to be sufficiently banked and cleaned 4d.
6. Ditch between Low West Field and High West Field to be sufficiently banked  
Straying cattle
7. Good bridges across all ditches to be made and maintained

Court 16 June 1780

Call Roll

Jury List; foreman. 12 Jurors 2 "affeerers"

1 constable 1 Common Impounder 2 Bailiffs

Presentments by Jury at 14 May 1779 court  
received at court 16 June 1780

"do present and amerce the following persons  
for offences within the Manor contrary to  
pains laid by us"

8 Offenders named and their offences and penalties.

It is unfortunate that one cannot print the entire Boynton Wood pedigree for that would fill a book in itself, but perhaps it is sufficient to say that the Wood family are a part of the history of Copmanthorpe and, for that matter, of England. They have had associations with Copmanthorpe for over 400 years and have been Lords of the Manor for nearly 300 years being the major landowners for that period. Sadly, all that remains of their association with the village is the title Lord of the Manor and the two village greens as waste of the Manor, for Frederick Anthony Boynton Wood (1888-1939), the father of the present Lord, sold the estate to the West Riding County Council in 1921.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

It has always been believed that the site of the Knights Templar Preceptory was in the Drome Road area close to Temple Garth and Temple Hill although this may have been part of their holding in the village. It is said that slates, large carved stones, cobbles and tiles have been found near the Temple Farm pond, towards the farm and also scattered around the village but present opinion inclines to the view that the Templars might not have built on land that flooded regularly. Aerial photographs that have been taken of the area show no evidence of any mediaeval foundations. Conversely, an aerial photograph which can be seen at the Junior School, shows a faint circle to the left hand side of New Moor Lane. I have been told that most Knights Temples were circular and if so this would have been a logical site. In my view there is some credibility attached to this possibility as the circle has appeared in other photographs in earlier years so it is not just a chance happening. I have also been told that the near-by farmhouse also has a quantity of stone lying there but I have not confirmed this. Not far from this circle on the railway bank which is not available to the public are some steps fashioned out of three extremely large slabs of stone. In my opinion it would take three men to lift one of them. These were uncovered when the railway cutting was dug out in the early part of this century. They had never been touched or moved and for some years Mr. Ernie Sanderson kept them clear of weed. I do feel there is an association between the steps, the circle and the Templars but until an archeological dig is mounted we shall never know.

The story of the Templars is long and complicated and the history of the Dissolution of the Templars even more so but there is no doubt that they had a presence in the village. An extract from the Yorkshire

Archaeological Journal of 1929 states that in 1291 there was a Preceptor of Copmanthorpe, Robert de Reygate, described as Keeper of the Castle Mills in York. Seemingly, apart from the Mills the estate was not large, having a house and a chapel which apparently was unusually well furnished. The original gift from Robert de Ros contained about 3 carucates.

In 1312 the Pope at the Council of Vienne dissolved the Order of the Temple without declaring its guilt or its innocence and ordered its property to be transferred to the Hospitallers. According to the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal the Castle Mills at York were sequestered by the Crown and Copmanthorpe was one of the estates used by the Hospitallers to secure their peaceful occupation of what they could take over. Records show that the property in Copmanthorpe was let to Sir Walter Fauconberg by the Prior of the Order of St. John in England, Thomas L'Archer (1321-1320) for £10 per annum, a considerable amount of money then. It is believed that Sir Walter Fauconberge was Mayor of York. The existence of the Templars in Copmanthorpe is further verified by the fact that their holding is registered in records in Malta.

The large amount of stone in buildings and walls in the village is believed to have come from the preceptory. Stone was not a natural building material of the village and could only have been brought here for a building of some importance. Once the Templars had departed I suspect that villagers cannibalised the property for the building material. Two carved stone heads have been dug up in the village and they certainly appear to be Templar heads. An expert in mediaeval stone confirmed to me that the stone in the centre of the village was of Norman cut. Much of it cannot be seen - one cottage is partly built

of the stone, another has foundations of large blocks and a large barn also has a section of stone running through it. What is open to view is the section of stone in the barns of Ivy Farm House and the Main Street stone walls.

The lands in Copmanthorpe consisted of one messuage, three carrucates of land rendering 70s. per annum and ten acres of meadow. The precise date of the settlement is unknown but in 1284 they possessed half the township. As late as 1736 the village was known as Temple Copmanthorpe a prefix that was usually attached to Knights Templar villages such as Temple Newsam.

What is of interest is that during the dissolution inventories were made at about sixteen Templar properties. Apparently the most significant feature was that apart from live stock and agricultural implements there was little of value in the majority of them. Vestments were the highest valued items. I quote -"The furniture is meagre and poor. There are no arms and very little money. The food in the larders is the usual salted mutton and bacon. Sometimes there is salt fish, herrings, stockfish and cheese, and occasionally a little beef. There is hardly any wine. Evidence of luxury is markedly absent."

Old Land Measures.

I have quoted some of the old land measures and for clarification I am setting down the way in which they were arrived at. As can be seen they are somewhat flexible.

Carucate. Probably the amount of land that a team of oxen could plough in a year. Carucage was the name given to the tax raised from the carucates.

Bovate or Oxgang. Used for the amount of land that a yoke of oxen could plough in a season. Estimated variously at from 8 to 24 acres or the eighth of a carucate or the half of a Virgate.

Hide. (Anglo Saxon). Began as the amount of land necessary to support a single household which was supposed to be the labour of eight oxen for 120 days in the year. Estimates vary in size ranging from 30 to 120 acres. After a time it was regarded as consisting of 120 acres (not necessarily 4,840 yards, but smaller ones). In each Hide there were 4 Virgates.

Virgate. A fourth part of a Hide.

ST. GILES CHURCH.

The first Knights Templar settlement in England was made in about 1180 at what is now known as Temple Bar, London. A very significant date for us as in this year the Church was built. It was then a rectangular building without any Chancel. This style of Norman church is probably peculiar to the district as Askham Bryan and Askham Richard are similar in design, although the resemblance is no longer apparent internally since archways were cut in the north wall to access an extension. Most of the windows are plain being round headed lancet windows with a drip mould over them. The main windows in the East wall are of similar design but are furnished with stained glass designed by Kemp and believed to be a notable example of his work. The central light is of the Crucifixion and the side lights are of St. John and the Blessed Virgin. (This is dated 1875).

A little research at the Borthwick Institute was very interesting. I first looked at the Court Book Papers of 1590-1. There was one small entry in Latin in such crabbed writing that it was difficult to decipher. The index card helped and one gathered that there was no curate during that period. The Parish Record Index Book was fascinating. Index 32 was mainly various plans for the new chancel built in 1889. It was obvious that there had been several changes of mind and it was impossible to tell which plan had come first. A plan of 1868 showed a gallery with stairs on the north side and the vestry in the south west corner. Seating was estimated at Nave 99, Gallery 13. One gained the impression of the organ being in the gallery. Another Enlargement Plan showed the Font in the south west corner, a new chancel including a new organ chamber and the capacity being shown as 96 in the Nave, 8 adults and 10 children in the Chancel



and 28 children in the gallery. In January 1889 a vestry with a fireplace was included with the organ chamber off the chancel and the gallery seating was increased to 33 children. In none of the plans was there any indication of any rebuilding of the walls. The restoration and enlargement was finally done in 1889. The Church was refloored and new seating added. There was also mention of a new staircase to a gallery and also an inner porch but these were thought to be unnecessary. The most easterly of the windows in the south wall was to be taken out and fixed further west but when doing this they came across an old narrow slit window. This was re-opened and the other window placed in the north wall. The slit window is said to be unevenly splayed on the inside. The old panelling round the nave walls was fixed in the Chancel and the nave was panelled with the wood from the old pews, as was the Vestry and organ chamber. The panelling round the Nave was later removed - rumour says that some of it was used in the hall of the house next to the Fox & Hounds but later removed. The old pulpit was lowered and refixed. Sadly, the fine old pulpit was removed some years ago and never replaced. The beautiful old oil hanging lamps that can be seen in old photographs have also disappeared. In latter years a porch has been added and apart from heat conservation it also protects the Norman doorway which had begun to suffer badly from the weather. During the late 70's the oak reredos with the gilded Alpha and Omega sigis on it given by parishioners in 1926 in memory of the Rev. G.E.Washer was also removed. The Sanctuary Chair was given in 1936 in memory of Thomas Harper. The altar table itself is Jacobean and the Church also owns a fine silver chalice dated 1640 given by John Wood. It is understood that other small pieces are also held.

I looked at the Parish returns for 1868. These printed

returns had to be filled in by the incumbent of the Parish. One, filled in by the Rev. Walter Rowsell, showed there were two services on Sundays, a morning and afternoon service. Attendance was given as 35 in the morning and 90 in the afternoon. I wondered about these figures and concluded that being basically a farming community, probably all the chores were done in the morning. The figure for communicants I thought was low - only 14. One question was WHAT IMPEDES YOUR MINISTRY? The answer "I consider that the large amount of intemperance which prevails in my own as well as in other parishes very specially obstructs to work for Christ."

In 1732 a commission was appointed to negotiate the formation of a churchyard. Part of the plea was the bad condition of the road to York and the expense incurred - it sometimes cost as much as £5 for transport and entertainment. Also in the submission was -

"Frequently they, or some of them of the poorer sort have been so intoxicated and overcome with much strong drink at the funerals or entertainment that they have not been able to get home the night after, but have been forced to lie in the lanes or fields till the next day - to their great scandal."

Drink did seem to be a problem to the poor Vicar.,

The Faculty Papers for 1673-1783 had two dealing with the acquisition of a burial ground. These were originals but enclosed in a transparent permanent seal. They had obviously suffered badly from either damp or scorching at the edges. The application was signed by J.Wood, Henry Swaile, Joseph Hobson, Joseph Hill, Robert Hobson and J.Wood Boynton. In the second document assigning the land I was interested

to note the requirement of 2s.6d to the Minister for every burial and also the finding for the said minister and his successors upon all and every such occasion of a horse to go to the said chapel of Copmanthorpe. Do not forget that the minister had to come from York for this purpose once a burial ground was established here.

The Chapel yard was finally enclosed to form a burial ground in 1750 but there is no record of any interment until that of Christopher Norfolk on 7th November, 1759 when Robert Stockdal was Vicar and Thomas Pawson 'Clark'. The agreement to have a church yard also included the commitment to build a 'decent and handsome brick wall'. This wall had iron railings all round it originally and the position of these can still be seen on the stone coping. The railings were removed during the second world war as part of the war effort but photographs exist of them. This burial ground was eventually insufficient and in 1926 the Church petitioned the Archbishop to consecrate a Burial Ground in Moor Lane. In 1992 seeing the need for plots for ashes the Parish Council also petitioned the Archbishop and the unconsecrated parts of the Burial Ground were consecrated by the Bishop of Selby for this purpose. Sections of this burial ground have to be left unconsecrated for those not of the Christian faith.

Although the Church was built in 1180 it did not become a parish in its own right until 1866. Prior to this it was a Chapel of Ease and a chapelry of St. Mary's Bishophill Junior, York and had no independent registers until 1750. The early St. Mary Bishophill records contain Copraanthorpe entries and most of these have been extracted for village records. Only modern records are now kept in the church.

The old records make fascinating reading. Families

were large, but the infantile death rate was appalling, child after child dying before they reached the age of 5. It was noticed that very often the same Christian name was given to two children in one family. This was understandable if it was a family name and was probably done to keep the name in existence.

It seems though that Copmanthorpe was a reasonably circumspect society as, over a period of 70 years only about 17 or 18 illegitimate children are recorded. In practically every case the word "Bastard" is written into the entry. One gets the impression that the unfortunate mother was subjected to interrogation regarding the father of the child. Two entries from the Bishophill records illustrate this:

1676 Thomas ye illegitimat son of Margaret Davy begotten as she said by a stranger that she knew not. (Not Copmanthorpe)

1678 Oct 6 Richard ye son of Jane Boulton of Copmanthorpe begotten as she declared by Richard Grainger of Caterton parish of Tadcaster, Richard Proctor, Vicar."

There was also the girl who stressed the point by giving her child the fathers full name. As he appeared in the registers only very few months later as the father of a legitimate child it was obviously an embarrassing situation. It is sad to note that many of these illegitimate children did not survive very long.

An entry of interest occurs at the end of the marriages of 1707-1753 and before the baptisms of 1772.

"The Church of St. Mary Bishophill Nova according to Mr. Torr in his Antiquities of the West Riding of Yorkshire Page 697, was esteemed one of the Great Farms belonging to the Dean and Chapter of York and by them usually demised with the Advowson

of the Vicarage to one of the Canons Residentiaries at the rent of 60m (sixty marks) per annum, being called Farmer of Copmanthorpe. He says the Town of Copmanthorpe belongs to this Parish and Church of St. Marys, the Dean and Chapter having the Tythe, Corn and Hay thereof, usually let to farm for the rent of £16 per Annum. N.B. Here is no mention made of the Tythe of Rape and line unjustly detain'd for several years by J.Wood, Esqr., from the Vicar of Bishophill Jun."

Copmanthorpe was obviously regarded as an important holding being classified as 'one of the Great Farms belonging to the Dean and Chapter<sup>1</sup>. The 1840 Inclosure Award shows the Dean and Chapter as holding a quite considerable amount of land.

The following burial entry of 1808 could be unique:

"Steven Forster Capten in His Majesty Service in the Royal Navy - supposed to be about one hundred years of age."

The tombstone can be seen in the churchyard but reads slightly differently from the register:

"Sacred to the memory of Stephen Foster, formerly of Gosport, Hants. Many years Gunner of the Somerset Man of War and the oldest Seaman in His MAJESTY'S Service. Died March 17th 1808 in the 94th Year of his Age."

We were not without our villains in the village for in 1810 it was recorded that:

"Edward Francis Spence Thompson was executed on Satterday April the 7th at York Castle for forgery on the Hull Bank, aged 31."

This was a Copmanthorpe record and not Bishophill

which leaves little doubt that he lived in the village. As it is a record of burial it seems certain that he was buried after execution and not left to rot on the gibbet.

There was a gibbet in Copmanthorpe at Colton Lane crossroads which was known as Ruffet Gate. I have often wondered whether there was any association with a ruff or collar and the rope around the neck. I am told that Hallcroft Lane was once Thief Lane so there could be a connection. I do not know if executions ever took place at Colton Lane. Gibbets were used not only as sites of punishment but as a warning and deterrent to potential offenders. The road to York was heavily wooded giving cover to thieves and highwaymen and so could be dangerous at any time of the day or night.

There was also a gibbet at the Acaster Crossroads.

#### THE METHODIST CHAPEL.

The site of the old Methodist Chapel is first mentioned in indentures of 1788 in the reign of George III and was situated in Church Street. It is now the Cooperative warehouse. Prior to that it was a general hardware shop very well used by the community. Much protest was made by the Parish Council and the Copmanthorpe Village Trust when the black windows were applied for. The Conservation Committee condemned them but to no avail, they were passed by Selby District Council. Even now, with a little goodwill it would not be too late for a change to be made. By 1815 the building was known to be in existence and owned by Mr. Francis Knyvett Leighton of Ross

Hall, Salop. From this date, the year in which Wellington fought the battle of Waterloo, it was occupied by a Richard Dalby and used as a school house. It was sold in 1821 to Mr. John Hobson the Elder a member of a very old Copmanthorpe family, (the name first appearing in records of 1612) who was acting as a trustee for his son. It is likely that they were, in fact, acting on behalf of the Methodist Society for on acquiring it for £10 in March 1821, they leased it in May of the same year to Joseph Dickinson and nine others of the Society of Methodists for the rent of one pepper corn. On the very next day it was sold by the Hobsons to the Society for £10 which had been raised by private collection and public subscription. The pews and seats were rented out on a yearly basis to raise monies for the upkeep of the Chapel. By 1832 the Chapel was registered as a charity and used until 1872 when part of a ruined cottage owned by William Hurray which adjoined it was purchased for £10 and this was used to enlarge the existing chapel. This chapel was used until 1958 when a new chapel was built in Main Street. The Church Street building was sold to a Mr. J.V. Miller a fish merchant and the sale was subject to the property not being used for gambling, drinking or dancing. In time it was a grocers shop, joiners shop and a hardware shop.

The Chapel in Main Street was eventually turned into a community hall and a new church built to the rear. The design of this was highly commended by the Conservation Committee and architects. Indeed Greenwood and Nicholas the architects who designed the new chapel received a certificate from a Festival of Architecture organised by the Yorkshire region of the Royal Institute of British Architects for this building. The community hall has been outgrown and in 1993 the hall was being raised to provide a second storey.

THE OLD SCHOOL.

The Victorian Old School was on the site of the new Health Centre and was built by the Church on land donated by the Lord of the Manor in 1868. It opened in 1869 and consisted then of a single room, lighted by small windows of obscure glass, entry being through a small porch with a spacious gothic doorway. In 1891 the School Board Chronicles show that a meeting was held of the ratepayers to decide whether they would have a School Board. The Chairman, the Rev. A. Willan said that the school, 'which had been carried on by Church of England managers, was now in serious financial difficulties and would shortly have to close. Some of the best subscribers to the school had passed away, there were fewer children and income from school fees and Government grant had diminished. The North Eastern Railway Company who paid one-half of the parish rates declined to contribute to the school because the directors had resolved not to subscribe to voluntary rates for school but simply to meet their legal obligations. At a previous meeting of ratepayers it had been decided by a large majority not to increase the voluntary rate of 1 penny in the pound. The School Managers had no other course but to hand over the school to a Board. The Education Department had agreed to this at the end of the school year without delay. If the ratepayers would not have a Board the school would still be closed and the school would be closed for at least six weeks and the children would be running loose - an undesirable contingency until the Education Department formed its own Board. It was moved that there should be a School Board for Copmanthorpe.\* The Parish Magazines, however, show that acrimony was rife between the



school board and the incumbent as the school was deteriorating for lack of pupils and funds. Following one disagreement the vicar decamped with the keys but after legal action he was triumphant. After a six months closure the school was re-opened as a Church of England Voluntary school. A letter dated February 21st 1898 may have had something to do with this. It was written to the Charity Commissioners by a newly formed Board consisting of T.C. Gypson, Thomas Jacques, Jnr., and Wm. Beckett and requested the intervention of the Charity Commissioners to aid in arriving at some modus vivendi between the Trustees of the School and the School Board so that the parish did not lose the benefit of the school.

The truce was short lived and in 1898 the Vicar "removed the log book after selling it to the Board". This book has never been found but details of the school history from that date do exist. The following extract tells its own tale.

"On Sept. 6th (1898) the Vicar visited the and cleaned out the spouts."

The situation must have been acrimonious. Apart from the erection of a dividing screen in 1900 and 'offices for the girls' which had to be emptied by carrying the bucket through the class room, the building was in a sorry state when it became the responsibility of the West Riding County Council in 1902. The architect's report of 1903 describes its condition:

"A brick building with a blue slate roof in fair repair. Rainwater collected in a tub for lavatory purposes. Privies in a very dilapidated and unsatisfactory state. Walls colour washed with

painted dado. White washed ceilings. Small playground of rough macadam with no drainage for surface water. Heating by coal fires. Artificial lighting by oil lamps."

Originally there was a clock built into the school wall with two faces - one inside and one out -but when the building had to be boarded up it was discovered that all that remained of the clock was the outer face. The internal face and movement had been stolen and was never seen again.

As already mentioned there was a little school in Church Street as far back as 1815 but this closed in 1821 when the Methodists bought the building. However, on the first Ordnance survey map of 1840 a school is shown on the corner of School Lane and Horseman Lane, the site now occupied by the Health Centre. Nothing is known about this school but assume it was opened privately after the sale of the chapel in 1821. The present Junior School was opened in 1968 almost exactly one hundred years after the building of the old school. However, this new school failed to accommodate the growing population and so the Old School continued its century old function until the present Infants school was opened in 1972.

The land for the Old School was donated by the Lord of the Manor in 1868 under the terms of the 1841 Education Act which meant that as soon as it ceased to be used for education it had to be handed back to the heirs of the original donor and this is what happened in 1972. It was shut but became steadily vandalised so that the building had to be boarded up and became an eyesore. Over the next 21 years many organisations tried to buy the building from the Lord of the Manor. The local authority, West Riding County Council, also entered

into negotiation but to no avail. During the late 1980's the Parish Council made a strong effort to obtain the building for a library and applied for Loan Sanction which is official permission to borrow money. Unfortunately, this permission was refused so we had to back down. Seeing how the building was deteriorating even more rapidly and believing that it should be put to some community use I suggested to Dr. Wedgwood that it might make an excellent surgery. He agreed and I arranged a meeting with the Lord of the Manor who seemed to be very keen on the idea. Negotiations were set in motion but went on for so long that Dr. Wedgwood retired in the meantime. Some months later Dr. Riley hinted that they might have to give up the idea because negotiations seemed to have come to a halt. Based on my knowledge of village history I made a suggestion which Dr. Riley followed up and the Trustees, once traced, were happy to sell. Unfortunately by the time the practice actually owned the building deterioration had gone so far that it could not be saved. Sad as it was to see the Old School go, the practice have produced a fine building, faintly reminiscent of the Old School. The school door has been retained and the school gateposts are on either side of it. A great asset to the village from the health point of view and also architecturally.

COPMANTHORPE STATION.

The station was opened on 29th May, 1839 and was one of the first lines in Yorkshire when the York & North Midland Railway line from York to South Milford was opened. Access to the station was by road and later by steps from the bridge onto the York bound platform. In 1839 there were 1st, 2nd and 3rd coaches. The 1st class had three compartments holding six people and was fitted with lamps at night. The 2nd class had four compartments holding TEN people and was open-

sided but with closed ends. The 3rd class was completely open and probably looked like a toast rack and in bad weather must have been very uncomfortable indeed. Snow blizzards or rain storms would have turned a simple train journey into something of a polar expedition.

The station was rebuilt in 1904 but was closed to passenger traffic on 5th January, 1959 and eventually closed altogether on 4th May, 1964. The original station house, now a private dwelling, can still be seen.

In 1841 George Hudson, the railway king, intended to extend his lines to include a branch from Copmanthorpe to Tadcaster and Leeds. Because of this the York & North Midland Railway applied in 1845 to construct "a more direct line between York and Leeds" and received the necessary Act on 26th June, 1846 authorising an extension from Copmanthorpe to join the Church Fenton - Wetherby branch north of Tadcaster Station. However, in 1849 the financial situation of the company made it necessary to postpone this project but by this time the large viaduct had already been built over the River Wharfe at Tadcaster and for decades this viaduct stood in solitary splendour - a bridge to nowhere. The viaduct has been purchased by Tadcaster Town Council and it is hoped that it will always remain as a monument to the railway giants of the 19th century.

Station masters in those days had a special place in the community, apart from the Vicar he was probably the best known person in the village. Some had sidelines to their normal duties and I was told by a lady who was born here in 1948 that the station master Mr. Duggleby who lived in the Station House used to do hair cuts for sixpence. The equivalent of 2<sup>p</sup> to-day. I must admit that the vision of a station master doing haircuts opened up all sorts of interesting speculations.

Another side-line enjoyed by some station masters in the old days was the sale of coal. *They* were in a slightly privileged position compared to other coal merchants as they were able to store the fuel on railway property and thus avoid the cost of storage.

Copmanthorpe at the turn of the century was staffed by two porters, two clerks and a stationmaster. It had a very busy train service with all trains stopping there except the expresses. This was because all tickets were checked there allowing passengers to walk straight off the platform when they reached York.

#### THE YOUTH CLUB.

G3ie Youth Club was opened on 16 March 1921 and was actually a new Institute opened by the Copmanthorpe and District YMCA. The blocks to build the structure were made and dried out in an old aircraft hanger on the Drome. People paid for blocks and the donors names or initials were on them.

The official opening was performed by the Princess Helene Victoria, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria Miss Bean of Manor Farm who died recently, was a small child at the time and remembered seeing her drive up in her carriage. To mark this event she was presented with a silver gilt key with a gothic head. On this head the York rose was shown over the red YMCA triangle and on the

reverse was engraved "Copmanthorpe, Built by Voluntary Labour, March 16th 1921". The key was fitted in a blue velvet and silk lined case. I

tried to trace this key with the object of buying it for the village but although the Royal Archives were very helpful, as was the Administrator of the Princess<sup>1</sup> estate, it was never recovered.

A copy of the original brochure printed for the official opening is in existence. The picture of the building is grandiose with a turret and weather-vane, with a stairway to the side leading to a verandah roof. At that time the intention was to purchase land opposite the YMCA for recreational use such as cricket and the verandah was intended for the purpose of watching the game.

It was then the only hall in the village and dances were held there with a little band composed of villagers. From what I can establish I suspect that the moving spirit behind the venture was a Mr. Thomas Russell who lived in a railway carriage at the top of Horseman Lane which I am told was 'beautifully appointed<sup>1</sup>'. His daughter was one of the players in the band\* From investigation it appears that it was also Mr. Russell who donated the May Queens crown to the village. It is now referred to as the Carnival crown but there was no recreation ground in those days and the crown was for the May Queen. Gladys Jarvis who lived in 10, Church Street (now derelict) was the first May Queen, and I have spoken to Mrs. Lucy Temple, nee Jackson, who remembers wearing the crown when she was May Queen 70 years ago. I was also told that there was a May Pole.

However, at the end of 1993 the building was in trouble. The back wall was leaning out - probably the roof was the only thing holding it in, new lavatories were desperately needed and the roof required urgent remedial work or replacement before the winter. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council at that time inspected the building and were agreed that the only economical answer was to rebuild otherwise the building would continue to require large sums of money to keep it up. They gave their opinion to the Youth Club Committee who, it was suspected, had exactly the same ideas and the big effort started. Selby District Council agreed to pay 50% of the costs provided the other 50% could be raised by the village. The new building is up (1995) but not finished internally but even so it is a great asset to the village and hopefully it can be used for many purposes during the day. Above all it is where the children of this village will be able to go, it is hoped, for many, many years, instead of roaming the streets.

#### THE RECREATION CENTRE.

The Recreation Centre is not only an example of past endeavour but also of present day effort. The idea for a centre was born at a public meeting in May 1968 and it took off immediately. It seems from the records that even the schoolchildren joined the rest of the village in fund raising and it seems incredible when one surveys the present complex that so much has been achieved in twenty seven years. But for the vision of original members the Recreation Centre could well have been the usual timber pavilion and sports field

seen in so many villages. Since then tennis courts and a bowling green have been added. Copmanthorpe should be very proud of its Recreation Centre and of those who worked to bring the original idea to fruition.

THE WOMENS INSTITUTE.

The Institute was formed on 14th November 1924 and has continued to flourish. One of their earliest achievements was the building of the Hall at a total cost of £1,000 which was opened on 29th June 1928 by the Duke of Kent (son of George V) who was to die so tragically in a plane crash during the war. It was put to great service during the second world war when it was used as an Evacuation and First Aid Centre. It is not generally known that some children were evacuated from Leeds and billeted in Copmanthorpe during this period. Later when Harvest Camps were sponsored by the W.I. for West Riding schoolchildren, the children slept in the hall and food was provided by W.I. members. It is one of the focal social centres of the village and also where the Copmanthorpe Players have been presenting their highly professional productions since the 1930's. In the early days the footlights for the stage were oil lamps which can be clearly seen in one old photograph.

There is one cloud that hangs over the W.I. The land was donated by a former Copmanthorpe family for W.I. use on the condition that once it ceased to be used for that purpose the site has to be returned to the original donors. Happily it has always been well supported and efficiently run, but again,



this has been due to the dedication of members to maintain the movement and preserve the well-being of the hall.

#### THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councils have been in existence now for over 100 years. It is unfortunate that because of lack of storage space Copmanthorpe parish records have had to be destroyed after so many years. Appleton Roebuck, for instance, has been fortunate in retaining their records right from the beginning. Villagers get a good service from their Parish Councillors who are unpaid and can only claim expenses for duties outside the village. They do a very good job of administering parish affairs, often on a very small budget. Fortunately over the years there have been many dedicated councillors who have fought for the facilities that we all now enjoy. Without this involvement there would be no chemist, no butchers shop, no library, probably no health centre in its present position, no modern up-to-date lighting system and no area in the Burial Ground for the interment of ashes. All these facilities have been promoted and fought for by succeeding Parish councillors. The Council has a voice on the Conservation Committee and liaises with other villages in the surrounding area. Close contact is also kept with local police.

THE CONSERVATION AREA

Part of Copmanthorpe has been designated a Conservation Area and basically this covers Main Street, Church Street and Low Green. It includes the shopping centre and the Health Centre. In addition to this,, five buildings carry Listed Building Status which makes them subject to special protection by the Department of the Environment. Any application for alteration or demolition of, or part of these buildings has to go before Selby District Council, The Conservation Area Advisory Committee and the Parish Council. If there is a Conservation Society then they too have the right to be consulted. Radical changes also have to go to the Department of the Environment. No single objector can influence any of these bodies. A typical case some years ago was the application to install a 15 feet wide bow window in one of the Listed Buildings. This was rejected by each of the five committees that it went to. The local Conservation society at the time, the Village Trust, was blamed for the rejection but in fact it was the experts and the architects that judged the merits of that application. The five Listed Buildings are:

1. St. Giles Church. Apart from the building there are four items which an Inspector of the Environment told me should be individually listed. The two fine monuments on either side of the altar, the tombstone of Stephen Foster and the church gates.
2. Ashfield, Station Road. A fine Georgian house untouched externally. George Allan, son of Matthew Allan the owner of Ivy Farmhouse from 1839 to 1860 lived here before taking over from his father.
3. Trowel House Farm, Main Street. Early 19th century Still a working farmhouse.
4. Manor Farm House, Main Street. 1709 to 1710. Demolished in 1710 and rebuilt. The barns

and kitchen to the rear of the property are believed to be very much older and may have been retained when the original building was demolished. The house is very interesting with little rails or galleries over the doors. It has a fine Jacobean staircase and on the first landing is a tiny window from which the occupants of that room can see down the stairs. The Wood family never lived here but it is feasible that the Lord of the Manors steward resided in the house.

5. Oaklea, Main Street. Early eighteenth century Queen Anne house. A plaque over the door bears the inscription 'THOMAS Wakefield and Margaret his wife - 1703". This plaque has been renovated by the present occupant and hopefully will remain for another 290 years. The Wakefield story seems to be a tragic one as they first appear in the parish records with the death of a daughter Elizabeth in 1704 - so soon after building their house. Records continue with Anna, born in 1707 John in 1710, Ann in 1713 and Margaret in 1716. Thomas' wife Margaret died in 1717 soon after the birth of her daughter Margaret who also died when she was five in 1721. Ann died in 1728 on 24th May aged about 15 and Thomas Wakefield himself followed her on July 14 of the same year. There is no entry to indicate what happened to the second child Anna, but it is likely that she did not survive very long. It was quite usual to have two children of the same name as I have mentioned before. John Wakefield appears to have been the only child to have survived and he had a daughter in 1742. After this entry the Wakefields do not appear in the registers again.

MORE HOUSES AND PEOPLE.

There are many other fine houses in the village which

are not, unfortunately, listed, Some of these appear on the first map of the village of 1722 which can be seen the Borthwick Institute and also in the York reference library.

Beechwood, Main Street. Part of this was an old farmhouse and before the adjacent Victorian villas were built a private road ran from the front of Beechwood in Main Street coming out where the first house in Station Road is now. This road, called Polly Lane, can be seen in the Copmanthorpe Inclosure Aware of 1840. Who Polly was we shall never know but it is interesting to note that a young lady called Polly lives in that first house in Station Road.

Beechwood has some fascinating features both inside and out. It has its own well which is very deep which was discovered when it subsided some years ago. It was not unusual that when people wanted to get rid of their wells they simply jammed planks across it a little way down and then piled earth on top. Eventually, of course, the wood rotted and the whole lot fell in. In the case of Beechwood the well is about 30feet deep. In the garden is the original ha-ha which is a crescent shaped ditch walled with stone. This was a clever device to maintain the pleasant outlook from a house and yet prevent livestock from approaching the dwelling without having to build a wall. Inside the house it is possible to see the old hot air oven and in the kitchen there is an unusual half-cellar. The servants old stairway is still in existence. Some years ago a carved stone head was dug up in the garden. Comparisons with pictures of Templar monuments show this to be identical with that style.

It is unfortunate that this house cannot be dated more precisely but the original deeds were missing when the present owner purchased the property. As it appears on the 1722 map it is presumed it was built

in the reign of George 1st. The ha-ha too could be an indication of its date.

One of our older residents recalls that prior to the first world war a member of the Rowntree Company lived here. Although he kept his own carriage he often cycled into York.

For many years Dr. Wedgwood's surgeries were held here.

The Post Office, Main Street. The exact date of this building is unknown but is certainly between 1680 and 1700 which makes it one of the two oldest buildings in the village. It was once a Listed Building but over the years was altered so radically that it lost its identity. It has been a Post Office for about 60 years. Prior to this the Post Office was at No. 8 Church Street, what is now the Butchers Shop. The Post Office in Church Street was run at one time by two spinster ladies Miss Annie and Miss Polly Thorpe. The last owners were the Thompson family who eventually moved to the Post Office in Main Street.

No. 8 Church Street was built on a small part of land owned by a Mr. Hullay in the 1830s. He sold this small piece for £25 to a Mr. Stone who, in turn, borrowed the sum of £100 from a Mr. Castling in order to build No. 8. in 1878. Once built Mr. Stone then sold the property to Mr. Castling who promptly resold it to a Mr. Fox for £210. That was a nice little profit and makes one realise that things don't change much.

Paddocks House. Main Street. Again this was once Listed and was removed for very minor reasons. It was built in 1824 and bears a plaque on the side wall with W.H. on it and the date. It is possible that a member of the Hobson family either lived in, or built this house in George IVs time. It is a fine house with well proportioned rooms.

The Hobsons first appear in the Bishophill records of 1612 with 'Georgius Hobson baptizatus erat 15 Martii.' and entries pertaining to the Hobson family continue for over 200 years.

Ivy Farm House, Main Street. Until the St. Giles Park Estate was built this was the working farm of the Wiseman family. St. Giles Way was driven through the side garden of the house. It has been sympathetically restored since 1981, the 1930s windows being removed and replaced with more appropriate ones. An earlier resident found the name of M.F.Allan, the owner between 1839 and 1860 scratched into the glass of an old sash window. Matthew Allan is shown in the 1851 census as being a farmer with 165 acres and employing one labourer. In 1861 George Allan, his son, is shown as farming the land which had increased to 170 acres. George and his wife had three daughters and one son. He employed three labourers and two boys, a governess, two carters, one house servant and another servant who also acted as nursemaid. The family gave up the house and the farm in 1918.

The Cottage, 11, Church Street. A restored cottage which bears the date of 1674 on the outside. There is no reason to doubt the veracity of this date which means it was built during the reign of Charles II. In common with the Post Office it is also the oldest building in the village.

Stakers Cottage. Main Street. This cottage had no name so was christened by the present owners. It has been much restored being nearly derelict in 1969 with daylight showing through the roof. It was unfortunate that the house had been 'modernised' in the 1950s with the old original windows having been replaced by metal Crittal type windows. The rear sloping roof had been demolished and the beams in the sitting room removed. Efforts have been made to repair some of this damage and luckily the beams in the dining room remain. An inglenook was discovered

in this room in 1974. The holes in the wall showed where; the reckon had been and the wall was still blackened by smoke. More recently a well was found in the garden. The village schoolmaster Thomas Hudson lived here in 1871 with his wife and three daughters. The house is shown on the early map of 1722 but little is known of its previous history. The barn now used as a garage housed the first steam threshing machine in the village.

Bow Cottage. 7, Main Street. The name is modern but the house is believed to be Georgian. With a change of ownership the Deeds threw up some unusual information

"In 1861 C.Varey sold to George Allan a piece of ground 65 superficial sq. yrd (on which a chapel had since been built. £20 being part of the purchase money £120 owing on the mortgage.....

And also all that Joiner's shop and stable formerly used as a chicory kiln and yard....."

The chicory kiln is something entirely new. I know that chicory was, and still is, used in coffee - was this the purpose of the kiln at Bow Cottage?

The Royal Oak, Main Street. The earliest record of this property is in 1793 when it was a dwelling house owned by John Benson. It may also probably a privately owned ale-house but it became a public house by 1830 when it was sold to John Cattle - the tenant being William Fowler. There had been earlier tenants, Henry Wilkinson, John Morley and John Norfolk, but it is impossible to say whether they were tenants of the inn or the adjoining cottages. It was sold to the Tadcaster Tower Brewery in 1921, this company eventually becoming part of what is now Bass.

The Census returns show that the Inn was, at one time, also a blacksmith's shop and a brewhouse. The Innkeeper not only ran the blacksmith's shop and the brewhouse, but is also shown as a small farmer. The rear garden of the inn was the site of the village pinfold.

There is a story that there was an underground passageway from the Inn to one of the nearby properties but this has never been proved nor, I understand, is there any evidence of this in the cellars of the Royal Oak. I have always been doubtful about this story as such a passageway would probably have been waterlogged for most of the year.

In one or two old documents the name of the Inn was shown as the Oak Tree Inn. This I believe to be the correct name as the Coat of Arms shown is that of the Lord of the Manor whose emblem is the oak tree. This village had no connection with the legend of Charles II hiding in the oak tree and therefore in my opinion the true name should be the Oak Tree Inn.

Its a 'sobering<sup>1</sup>' thought that villagers have been drinking their pints here for about 200 years.

Blows Cottages. Church Street. The row of terraced cottages to the right of the fish and chip shop is known as Blows Cottages and .was built in 1826 for Thomas Batman, another very old Copmanthorpe name. Thomas was born in April, 1780 and a Robert and William Batman appear even earlier in the burials of 1630 in the Bishophill records. A descendent of the Batman family, Philip Batman has corresponded with me on several occasions about his family.

It is believed that Thomas Batman occupied one cottage in this row and William Varey and John Cobb the others. The builder, who could have been John Cobb used 9" x 2½" bricks and pantiles. The long front gardens of the cottages once had three more cottages in them but these were demolished in 1885.



At the time of this demolition Blows Cottages were sold, along with 4 more cottages, for £570 to Isaac Calam, a librarian of Leeds, upon whose death in 1902 they were transferred to his executor Charles Herbert Blow from which their name is probably derived.

The Old Vicarage, Main Street. Built in the middle of the 19th century this is a typical example of Victorian architecture in a period when many vicars had private means with which to employ servants to maintain their status and comfort. At one time the Vicarage was in danger of demolition as twelve houses were applied for on the site. This was refused by Selby District Council fortunately, for although opinions differ about the old vicarage there is no doubt that demolition would leave a gap. I understand that the W.I. did at one time have ideas of buying it as a home for elderly W.I. members but they were unsuccessful. It is now occupied by a family who wish to preserve all its features.

In 1982 as a result of a lorry backing into the rear entrance the ground collapsed and underneath was found a brick built cellar with a curved roof.' To the rear of the house, about two feet below an enormous Victorian compost heap, an area of cobbling was discovered which is believed to extend into the garden of Staker's Cottage.

The Rev. Willan, one of the incumbents was the first: person in Copmanthorpe to have a motor car and employed a chauffeur.

Like Oaklea the vicarage was not without its tragedies - Mrs. Washer, wife of the Rev. Washer, both of whom are still recalled by one or two older members of the parish, came to an untimely end in her seventies. Whilst cycling over the railway bridge she lost control of her bicycle, landed head first in the ditch and drowned. A picture of her in her late middle age still exists and shows her to be an extremely attractive woman.

The Vicarage has not remained entirely unchanged.

An early photograph shows a small extension where the present front door is. This rose to the roof ending in a turret with a weathervane on it. The windows used to have large stone crosses on them identical to those on the windows of the Dean Court Hotel in York.

Whilst it is still possible to walk round the village and see these houses one should not forget the ones that have gone. One of the most important must have been

The Old Manor House. This stood slightly to the right of the present Cost Cutter shop and pictures taken during its demolition show a large timber framed building. The beams, particularly the roof beams were massive and one of them can still be seen displayed in the Junior School grounds. It seems reasonably certain that this was a Tudor house - it could have been even earlier but I have been informed that it had a rare Tudor staircase. From the pictures it looks as though in its latter years it was divided into smaller dwellings but originally it must have been a fine house. If only we knew who had lived in it. There were also some ancient barns on the site close to the road side, all have now gone.

This was a major loss to the village and if Conservation Areas had been in existence at that time it is doubtful whether its demolition would have been permitted.

Willstrop Farm. Main Street. This was a Georgian house and was lost when the new Willstrop Farm Estate was started. After much fighting for an extension of the Conservation Area which would have protected this house, demolition was started three days before ratification of the Conservation Area. This was quite legal but in the view of the Village Trust at that time quite unnecessary. Willstrop Farm Road could

still have been opened with the house making an excellent family dwelling or converting into two. Two old cottages were lost at the same time and had been left to deteriorate until they were past repair.

The Co-operative Store, Church Street. This has been built on the site of another old Chapel. For many years the Co-op operated from the Chapel until expansion of the village made it a viable proposition to build to-days modern store. I have no information about this Chapel, or its denomination. There was also an old cottage on the site close to the Co-op warehouse but this was also demolished many years ago.

Street Lighting. I cannot establish exactly when lighting came to the village but have been told that there was some street lighting as early as 1922. There would only have been a few lamps, probably about seven, and it is more than likely that they were oil lamps. What is certain is that we had a lamplighter whose name was Fred King. He apparently had a long pole and in the winter would light every lamp at 5.30 p.m. and turn them off at 11 p.m. In his later years Fred King used to cut the village greens. Members of his family still live in the village.

Water and Sewage. It is difficult to imagine the Copmanthorpe of the past when we look at the large village it is to-day. The majority of us take the water coming from the tap for granted yet, at the turn of the century, the water came from wells. Many houses had their own well such as Beechwood, Staker's Cottage and Willstrop Farm, but for others it was necessary to collect their water from the village pump. This was situated just outside Croft Farm on the village green, close to the public right of way and was known as the Glory Well. I was told by an older resident that he remembers Tommy Harper the schoolmaster in about 1910 carrying a couple of

buckets down to Low Green for water. We believe this to be the same Thomas Harper in whose memory the Sanctuary Chair was given to the Church.

Piped water actually came quite early to the area just before the first world war. New houses built at this time had it laid on and the older properties gradually installed the supply. However, even after piped water became available there was one vicar who went regularly to the Glory Well and drank a glass of water every morning. Dare one suggest that it might have been cheaper and more effective than Epsom Salts or Andrews Liver Salts?

I have no record regarding sewage disposal or when it actually came to the village. I do know that there was a man who collected the village 'night-soil' from Drome Road and this is within living memory. Privies were outside and in some cases it was possible to extract the bucket from the rear of the privy. My informant told me that this sometimes resulted in an embarrassing situation if the privy was occupied as the night soil man gave no warning and simply pulled out the bucket. Sewage and refuse disposal was general by 1947.

Trades and Population. It is evident from past research, that the village was self-supporting in basic commodities and needs. In mediaeval times there was no doubt a certain amount of trade and barter with peddlers and merchants, but this is only an assumption. I believe it was a thriving community for in 1389 in the reign of Richard II, son of the Black Prince, there were 65 people who paid taxes, the population being around 100. Occupations at that time were shown as draper, sutor, textor, brasiatcr, carpentur, frankelyn and smith. Some of these names have been used on the Barratt and Costain estate roads in memory of the old trades that once flourished. Between 1759 and 1837 38 trades are recorded and that included the forger - if you can call that a trade. Road names on the Persimmon estate are those of the old farmers.

Census Returns. The Census Returns are invaluable. For instance in 1841 there was an innkeeper, several farmers, two tailors, one dressmaker, a clockdresser, bricklayer, three shoemakers, two butchers, two shopkeepers, seven coopers, joiner, blacksmith and a schoolmaster.

In 1851 this hadn't changed greatly except that the dressmakers had increased to three as had the shopkeepers and there were two blacksmiths instead of one. The first had been within the village complex and a second operated from Moor Lane. The house in Moor Lane is still standing but not recognisable as having been a blacksmiths. Some time ago I heard a rumour that the last blacksmith had buried his anvil in the front garden but although a search was made with a metal detector it wasn't found. A carter also appeared in the 1851 census for the first time.

By 1861 the number of carters had risen to 11 and the shoemakers to five. The increase in carters may have been due to the coming of the railway and the necessity of collecting and delivering from the station. The railway obviously had a tremendous effect on the social and commercial life of the village, particularly on those who, unless they were wealthy and kept a carriage, had no alternative but to beg or buy a lift from a carter or walk into York. The buildings to the rear of Copmanthorpe Garage were in fact a livery stables so it was possible to hire a horse.

The change worked in other ways as a number of railway workers came into Copmanthorpe and with them came another type of architecture as can be seen in the terrace of railway cottages in Station Road.

The bricklayer had disappeared from the 1861 Census but two schoolmasters are recorded.

An increase in general workers is apparent but a reduction in farmworkers is shown. This may, of course, have been due to the way in which they described themselves in the Census, but what is more likely the coming of the railway offered more employment. There was a marked decline in one trade - that of cooper. In 1841 there were seven coopers, three in 1851 but by 1861 this trade had disappeared entirely from the village. I don't know why this happened for I cannot believe there was an equal decline in the consumption of ale.

Poorhouses. There was obviously a certain amount of poverty in the village as seven people are designated in the 1841 census as being paupers but this was a small percentage out of a population of 284 persons. The number of paupers also showed a gratifying decline being three in 1851 and none in 1861. This decline may have been the reason for the demolition of the Town Poorhouses in 1863. These were virtually opposite 9, 10 and 11, Church Street. Whether the Copmanthorpe Town Poorhouses were a type of workhouse I do not know, but the reform of the Poor Law in 1834 grouped parishes into Poor Law Unions for the maintenance of a workhouse and the enforcement of the 'workhouse test' i.e. "the able bodied pauper must go into the 'house' - he could not be given outdoor relief." In York itself the children of paupers were supposed to be apprenticed out, I presume rather after the fashion of Oliver Twist, but I do not know whether this happened here.

Certainly the Copmanthorpe Town Poorhouse was not confined to the old for in 1784 under Baptisms in the Church records, we find 'James son of Thomas Eden, labour, by his wf Rose, maiden name Holms, poor house.' Under burials of 1806 I noted 'James Bell, Fetter Lane, pauper from Copmanthorpe 28 years.

In 1841 a Mary Tenneswood aged 30 and Hannah Whincup aged 33 are also classified as paupers. Both had children, Mary having given birth in 1833, 1834 and 1836. Hannah had a daughter Charlotte in 1834. What sad stories could be behind these entries, were they widows or 'unfortunates' we shall never know. What is certain is that they had to go into the Poorhouse to survive.

Poverty could also have been the reason behind a very early entry in the St. Mary Bishophill records of 1693:

An Ancient woman, a stranger who said she came from Carlisle died at Copmanthorpe and was buried ye twentieth day of August."

It is appalling to think of the journey that this old woman had made. Remember, 300 years ago there were no buses or trains. She may, of course, have begged lifts from carters but she must have walked the greater part of the journey. Her feet must have been painful and swollen and she was probably half-starved. No-one even knew her name.

Population. Our population figures are reasonably well documented and show a certain stability until the 1930's as can be seen from the following table but we do not as yet know the ultimate figure of the 1991 Census. However, 1580 newsletters are distributed in 1993 so it is estimated that our population is in the region of 4,400 people.

1801 - 184  
1811 - 250  
1821 - 281  
1831 - 294  
1841 - 284  
1851 - 316  
1861 - 350  
1871 - 327  
1881 - 311  
1891 - 309  
1901 - 299  
1911 - 1921 - 382  
1931 - 591  
1941 No census because of war  
1951 - 736  
1961 - 1027  
1971 - 1215  
Preliminary 1981 - 3445

Roads To return to the past. If one looks at the Copmanthorpe Inclosure Award of 1840, the same year in which Queen Victoria married Prince Albert, it is obvious that there were very few roads in the village and even some of the names have changed. Main Street was known as the Town Street of Copmanthorpe, Moor Lane was Moor Road and Station Road was Acaster Road. School Lane was known as High Westfield Lane and Manor Heath was the Colton Road probably because it led to the Colton crossroads which had the strange name of Ruffet Gate. Yorkfield Lane was in existence but Horseman Lane, one of to-days main village roads was simply a continuation of the Town Street of Copmanthorpe. In the 18th century Horseman Lane was almost non-existent and was merely a track with a gate across it at its junction with the Town Street.

I have already mentioned the small road that ran in front of Beechwood and which followed his south easterly boundary into Station Road. I do not know when that disappeared but presumably when the Victorian semi-detached houses were built.

As to the present A64 it seems that in the 18th century it was known as the York and Tadcaster Turnpike [toad, the Trustees of which held meetings at the Wild Man Inn. In a notice of 1784 warning was given that -

"persons are stationed on this road to watch and lodge information against all drivers of carriages who contrary to Act of Parliament drive sitting in such carriages or riding on the shafts....



whereof they would do well to take notice." But they didn't! In

1785 it was recorded that -

"John Trees, servant of Jonathon Hobson of Copmanthorpe was convicted before the Trustees of Tadcaster Road, assembled at the Wild Man, of riding in his masters wagon on the said road not having another person to guide the horses and paid the penalty of ten shillings. It is hoped that this conviction will be a caution to others as such practices are attended with great dangers to travellers and can no longer be suffered with impunity."

Things certainly don't change much, do they?

Drome Road - 57 Squadron RFC. Apart from the coming of the railway it was about 80 years later before there was any significant change and this came with the 1914-1918 Great War and this was in the Drome Road area. Drome Road, of course, did not really exist until well after the first world war and the name came because of the aerodrome. A search-light battery was the first unit to be stationed on the Drome Road area but after an attack on York by a Zeppelin airship in May 1916, 33 Squadron 'B' Flight which had previously flown from the Knavesmire was moved here. On the 8th June, 1916, No. 57 'Cheltenham' Squadron was formed from a nucleus of 33 Squadron personnel the pilots being trained in flying duties. Training flights were often over the village itself because of the prevailing wind. Strangely enough although I have been told there were one or two crash landings in the fields to the south of Temple Lane there are no reports of crashes in the village itself.

The first batch of trained pilots were sent to France

on 16th December, 1916 with F.E.2ds ; for fighter reconnaissance. Within a month they were all dead.

Many of the officers were billeted in the village - some at Manor Farm and Ivy Farm. One elderly gentleman told me that he well remembers the commanding officer walking from his billet in Ivy Farm House to the Drome, stick under arm and his brown boots gleaming in the sun.

Very little remains now to indicate that there was once an aerodrome in Copmanthorpe for after the war the area was divided up into smallholdings, ostensibly for returning servicemen. It is said that the house next to 16a, Drome Road was once the Sergeants Mess, but apart from this and one or two smaller buildings everything has gone. One of the hangars did remain until at least 1921 when it was used for drying the building blocks for the Y.M.C.A, now the Youth Club.

Over the years bullets have been dug up and a completely rusted revolver. A quantity of Wellington boots, all for the left foot, were also found in a ditch - why only left footed boots I do not know. All that remains is the name of Drome Road except for a memorial in the Church

The Squadron actually moved to France at the end of 1916 and between then and the end of the war 300 tons of bombs were dropped, 22,000 photographs taken, 166 enemy aircraft destroyed and 196 successful reconnaissance missions flown. The Squadron was disbanded in December 1919 but reformed in October 1931. In the Second World War the Squadron flew 4,235 operational sorties.

Mr. Ernest Sanderson of Moor Lane, who I am proud to call my friend, always had an intense interest in the Drome and 57 Squadron and one day he showed

me a shield bearing the Squadron crest. He said that he would like the shield to go in the Church as a memorial to those who had died. Little did he know what a long time it vould take to effect this. The Church had to apply for a Faculty to install the Shield and this took nearly 18 months. The Village Trust of which I was then Secretary, agreed to fund an explanatory brass plate to go underneath and Mr. Milner and his son Alistair were happy to erect the shield at no charge. I then thought it would be a good idea to make a real occasion of this and finding that the Squadron was still in existence I contacted the Commanding Officer Wing Commander Hayward who readily agreed to come to the service of consecration with a Colour Party and the RAF Chaplain Wing Commander SIRR.

I had asked the wives of Village Trust members to make some refreshments so that we could give the RAF visitors tea after the consecration but my heart sank when I walked in the Church at 2.15 p.m. on Saturday 30th November 1985 and found that the Church was full. Somehow news of the Dedication had reached retired RAF personnel and many of them turned up to see the Squadron flag paraded.

It was a great occasion to have a permanent memorial in the Church as the Squadron, which served in the Falklands was disbanded in 1986. Just: before disbandment I received a phone call to say that one of the Squadron aircraft (the: flying 'wing') would be flying over and would make a flight over the village to say good-bye. There was only a few hours to get the news round so I don't know how many people

saw this large aircraft circle round the village.

If you want to know why my heart sank when I entered the Church on that day it was because I feared that the amount of food available was not going to be enough for the large congregation that we had. I always think of the parable of the loaves and fishes when I think of it for somehow it all went round and there was more than enough.

CHANGE.

It seems likely from the little that we know about the village that it was basically an agricultural community. In addition to the usual crops Flax was grown and there was a flax mill in Yorkfield Lane at the bottom of Merchant Way. My encyclopaedia tells me that flax was grown in Ireland and parts of Yorkshire. Nor did the community alter until the coming of the railway which brought new skills and trades. This was evident from the 1871 census where platelayers, railway porters, a gateman and a station master are shown. I have no doubt though that the women of the village still went down to Doctor Lane as part of Yorkfield Lane was then known to gather herbs and plants that they used to treat illnesses. These days we have a chemist.

In 1975 Miss Kathleen Arminson, my predecessor as the Village Trust Secretary, recorded the voices and memories of several old villagers. These tapes were made over a period of four years and the memories probably spanned nearly a century. Sadly we do not know where those

tapes went to but a newspaper cutting of October 24 1975 gives a few details. One interview was with Mr. Willis Dykes who was born in Rose Cottage in 1903 and was the butcher in one of the village shops in about 1970. He recalled the village sports day with flags flying all over the village and particularly recalled one race. "I never was much of a runner" he said "one thing I'll always remember was one race when they put oranges in a bucket of water and you had to get them in your teeth and run. I bit mine and ran, but just at the tape I lost it."

Another voice recalled burly Canadians coming to clear trees for the airfield in the first world war. How milk was fetched for the house from the farm in a jug..... and a fourpenny return fare to York on a train pulled by a green LNER engine. Mention was also made of a blind basket maker who lived on Low Green. The article also refered to the five paraffin street lamps on the wall brackets in Main Street. I believe one of these brackets can still be seen on the house on the corner of School Lane and Main Street.

In one interview with a 90 year old woman a clock can be heard ticking quietly away in the background whilst she remembers paying the school threepence every Monday and 'woe betide you if you didn't have the money.' Her husband talked of the cross-channel shuttle trips during the 1914-18 war looking after horses ("remounts" as they were commonly known) either going to the front or being sent back home. This was a different world 1

And so to the present day. The pattern of life has changed from one of agriculture to a dormitory village and suburban life. The "Tadcaster Turnpike Road" is still a problem. The station has closed and one by one the old village lanes have disappeared to make way for housing. This ancient village has lost its identity. Slowly but surely the houses, the farms and the lanes that once made it a typical Yorkshire village have been eroded. In the thirties the Hunt used to meet on the Green in Main Street, geese were grazed on Low Green and the local dairy herd was driven to pasture from Manor Farm through Main Street. Milk was delivered by Trigger the horse pulling the milk float who was one of the best known characters in Copmanthorpe. He knew his milk round perfectly and was exceptionally fond of a particular yellow rose from my front garden and was once seen ambling down Church Street emulating Carmen with a long stemmed blossom held in his mouth.

None of these things can return for they are incompatible with modern day living, nor would one wish to return to the days when nightsoil was collected by horse and cart or to draw our water from a well. We can, however, try to preserve what is left and protect it for future generations to see and hopefully appreciate.

#### THE LIBRARY.

I have deliberately left this until the end. The highlight of 1993 was the opening of the Public Library for which residents and councillors had been striving and hoping to achieve for about 30 years. It was finally

opened in 1993 in the shopping centre. It took a long and difficult battle to achieve but well worth it. Something that will always impress me is that never before have I seen a library full of completely new books. Truly a milestone in Copmanthorpe's history.

I'll end on a lighter note, A press cutting of 26<sup>th</sup> May 1977 states:

"Mark gives Yorkshire Pudding a Pedigree.

Mark Harries could be considered something of an expert on the much-maligned and much-admired humble Yorkshire pudding. He says, for example that the pudding first gained recognition in 1769 after a feast at Copmanthorpe, near York, to celebrate George II's 31st birthday on June 4th that year. Surrounding villagers were invited and a local butcher and local fanner prepared a flat doughy pudding to augment the meats. The pudding was served first, quickly followed by the meat and everyone was so impressed that the word spread, says Mark, manager of the Jester Hotel, Alwoodley, Leeds, which is celebrating the occasion this June 4."

I have not researched this story and much as I would dearly love to believe it, I was conscious from the very start that coming from the 'JESTER<sup>1</sup>' hotel a grain of salt should be taken with this portion of pudding.

However, what is fact is that it is recorded that Copmanthorpe did have an annual feast at one time which was usually held on Ascension Day - so - who knows?