

"Ownership of Roundhay Manor and Park" © by Peter Kelley

The earliest reference to Roundhay, found by John Morkill in the latter half of the 19th century, was in a charter of Robert de Lacy, the great grandson of Ilbert, granted in the reign of Henry II (1154-1189). This document indicates that Roundhay Grange, (formerly Wheatcroft), was already owned by the Abbey of Kirkstall and makes further grants of land, together with rights to pasture their cattle and use the wood in "the Roundhay".

1086 Extensive lands in the area, including Wheatcroft (Roundhay Grange) and probably the Roundhay itself, were granted to Ilbert de Lacy by King William I and it became part of the Honour of Pontefract.

1152 Cistercian monks settle at Kirkstall on land secured from William of Piotou a sub-tenant of Henry de Lacy, Ilbert's grandson, and were granted Roundhay Grange (Wheatcroft) shortly after that date.

1257 Edmund de Lacy, Henry's grandson, who had also become Earl of Lincoln and Chester, died, leaving his estates to his son Henry de Lacy, except for certain lands including Leeds, Gipton and Allerton, which he left as a dower to his widow Alice.

1287 The Abbey was in financial difficulties and appealed for help to a later member of the founder's family Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. He purchased extensive Abbey lands in Lancashire, and Yorkshire including Roundhay, Seacroft and Shadwell, in exchange for an annual payment to the Abbey of 80 marks, 50 marks representing the value of the Lancashire holdings and 30 marks those in Yorkshire.

1293 Henry de Lacy's only remaining child and heiress, Alice, who later also inherited her grandmother's estates, was married to Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, the nephew of King Edward 1.

1311 Henry de Lacy died (his two sons had died earlier). The Honour of Pontefract and his other lands became part of the Duchy of Lancaster. An extent (inquisition) after his death gives a concise list of his possessions and values them at £1,292 18s 76. Roundhay, Seacroft and Shadwell are together valued at £10 14s 0d.

1322 Thomas, Earl of Lancaster was involved in opposition to King Edward II and after the battle of Boroughbridge, he was beheaded at Pontefract on the 23rd of March 1322. Four years after his death, his widow married one of her many lovers, without the King's consent, and he confiscated all her lands in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.

1327 Edward III granted the Honour of Pontefract with its constituent manors to his mother Queen Isabella.

1330 The lands were granted to Edward's wife Queen Philippa.

1348 The Lancaster family recovered all their lands bit by bit, the manors in the Leeds being amongst the last returned to Henry, Duke of Lancaster, nephew of the unfortunate Earl.

1361 Upon the death of Henry, the estates were divided between his two daughters, Maud and Blanche. The Honour of Pontefract going to Blanche, who married the third son of Edward III, John of Gaunt.

1361-1399 The manor was part of the estates of one of the most powerful men in England :- John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, Lord of Bergerac, Duke of Aquitaine, King of Castile and Leon.

1399 When John of Gaunt and Blanche's eldest son, Henry Bolingbroke, made himself King Henry IV, after his victory at Bosworth Field, Roundhay became a royal manor and remained so until the reign of Charles I.

1512 During the reign of Henry VIII, The park of Roundhay was granted, together with the park of Rothwell, to Lord Thomas Darcy. Up to this date the history of the park has been identical with that of the manor, but now they separate and it is nearly 300 years before the two estates are reunited in the possession of Thomas Nicholson.

THE MANOR OF ROUNDHAY: -

1603 26th February, the dependent manor of Seacroft was granted by James I to Charles Blount, Earl of Devon. In 1605 the Earl conveyed Seacroft to George Shillito Esq. of Houghton. For the next 200 years the legal dispute, whether the manor of Seacroft had ceased to be subject to the paramount manor of Roundhay, dragged on.

1626 13th July, with the support of Sir John Savile of Howley, Leeds obtained from King Charles I a charter of incorporation for the borough. This covered the entire parish of Leeds, including Gipton and Allerton.

1628 On the 14th June, in order to settle his debts and raise more money, King Charles I sold many estates, including the manors of Leeds and Roundhay (including Shadwell).

1629 The manor of Leeds, including Gipton and Allerton, was purchased by a group of six local men headed by Richard Sykes, Mayor of Leeds, and put in trust for the Corporation.

1629 On the 8th December, the Manor of Roundhay, including Shadwell, was purchased from the Corporation of London, for £850, by Stephen Tempest Esq., of Broughton. Mr. Tempest was a captain in the service of King Charles I., and for his adherence to the royal cause his estates were confiscated by Parliament.

1653 On the 16th September "the Trustees for the sale of estates forfeited to the Commonwealth for treason", sold the manor to William Lowther Esq. It appears that he did not take possession for seven months, on the 16th April 1654 a Court was held by Thomas Tempest the son of Stephen.

1688 On the 18th July, the manor of Roundhay was conveyed to John Savile Esq., of Methley. It remained in this family until 1804 when it was conveyed to trustees by John Savile, second Earl of Mexborough.

1811 30th November the manor was purchased by Thomas Nicholson.

ROUNDHAY PARK

1512 Roundhay Park was granted, by King Henry VIII, to Thomas, Lord Darcy, of Temple Newsam.

1538 Thomas, Lord Darcy was beheaded for his share in the Catholic rebellion called the "Pilgrim of Grace" and his estates were forfeited under bill of Attainder.

1548 George Darcy, the eldest son of the unfortunate Earl, was given the title of Baron Darcy by King Edward VI and some of his estates (not including Roundhay) were restored.

1599 6th June, John, Lord Darcy of Ashton, great grandson of Thomas Darcy, was granted by Elizabeth I the parks of Roundhay and Rothwell Hay (or Hayghe). John Darcy died without issue and his estate passed to his sister Anne, the wife of Thomas Saville Esq., of Copley.

1676 Sir John Savile, Bart of Copley, Anne's grandson, became the owner of Roundhay Park.

1681 11th October, Sir John's only child and heiress, Mary Elizabeth, was married to Lord Thomas Howard of Worksop. Their sons, Thomas and Edward, became respectively 8th and 9th Dukes of Norfolk.

1767 Edward, Duke of Norfolk, sold the park to William, 15th Baron Stourton, the husband of Winifrede Howard, his niece.

1803 4th August, Charles Philip, Lord Stourton, their son sold Roundhay Park to Thomas Nicholson and Samuel Elam.

1811 The park and the manor of Roundhay are once again united in the hands of one owner, Thomas Nicholson.