

**A Visit to Maltby, West Riding, Yorkshire,
England, Aug. 14, 1901.**

BY MISS MARTHA J. MALTBY.

When in York, in 1885, a gentleman remarked upon introduction, "There is a Parish in Yorkshire by your name." I was at once all attention, but succeeded only to learning that it was an ordinary English hamlet which he had once visited, in the West Riding.

In 1895 a chance meeting with an English Bishop brought the second bit of information, for he remarked upon learning my name, "My first living was the parish of Maltby and I remember it with pleasure." But our ways parted before I could learn much more, or more helpful knowledge as to how to find the place for no guide book I have seen has it mentioned and I knew of no railway guide with its name on it. So when a fortunate chance found me in Durham and with the opportunity of questioning the learned archaeologist, Canon Greenwell, the President of the British Archaeology Society, and he too referred to the parish in connection with my name, then I learned what I had long wished to ascertain, i. e. how could Maltby be found?

He had visited the hamlet on an archaeological excursion and remembered it had an old church tower and he gave the much desired information concerning the way.

A few days later my friend and traveling companion and I broke our journey southward, at Doucaster, took a train westward for a few miles, leaving it at Carrisboro for a seven mile drive southward from the station for Maltby. Let me note in passing that Carrisboro is known for its well preserved Norman tower of the castle which Sir Walter Scott makes the scene of the tournament in "Ivanhoe," which Rebecca reports to the Knight. The short wait for our trap and driver, gave us the opportunity to look at the tower.

Unfortunately a drizzling rain set in as we started for Maltby which is situated up a valley from Carrisboro and the mist shut from sight some of what must have been a charming view in the heart of north English country, could we have seen it in the distance. The road wound along between stone walls and English hedges and fertile farms, growing wheat, barley and turnips, and with pasturage for cattle and sheep, lay on both sides of the way. The farm houses had the appearance of comfortable prosperity and from their scattered positions we judged the farms were large in acreage. Two and three hamlets lay on the way and one had an ancient stone cross to testify of its age.

The village school had just closed for the day as we drove through Maltby village to the church whose spire we had seen in the distance. To our driver's question of "where he should take us?" we had responded, "To the church, of course."

Our trip had excited sufficient interest in the school children for some of them to follow us and gather about the two American women, who had left the



ON THE MALTBY ROAD---CARRISBORO STATION TO MALTBY



IN THE NORTH WOODS AT MALTBY



IN MALTBY MEADOWS



Very Few of These Ancient Lych Gates Remain in England

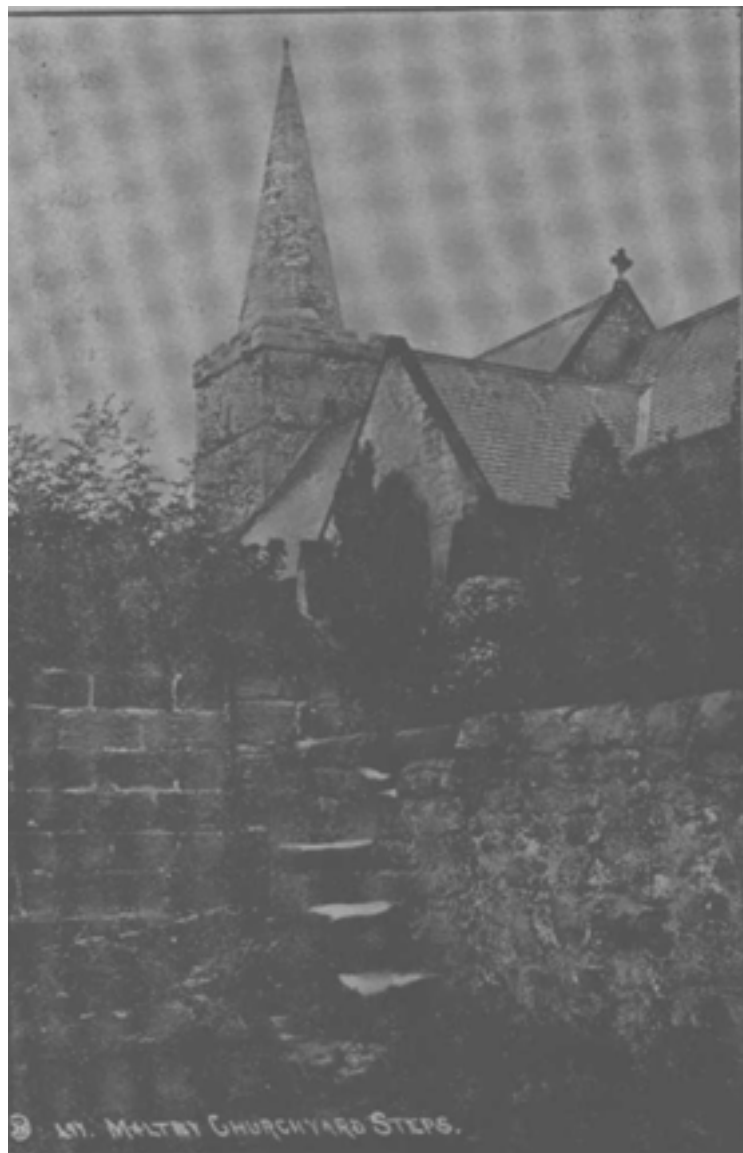


MALTBY CHURCH

carriage and were admiring the oaken Lynchgate, built in the ancient style and forming a beautiful entrance to the churchyard. They were as ready to answer questions as we to ask them. The sexton was mowing the church yard and we knew the church was open as we could hear the organ and we soon found our time of visit was auspicious for the organist and some of the leading parishioners were in the church and they too were willing to give information to the strangers.

The church itself is only some fifty years of age and is neat and pleasing in appearance, but the tower onto which it is built, is very interesting and well worth seeing. It shows some four stages in building and must be very old. The lowest part is doubtless Saxon, having the heron-bone stone work about three feet from the ground. Bits of what look like Roman bricks are scattered along promiscuously in the stone wall. High up from the foundation are small windows. A large modern window has been placed in the western side of the tower. The walls are very thick and are strong and well built.

The sexton told us that when removing the old church, they found its walls so firm that the workmen used powder to blow them up. The tower's first story is some thirty or forty feet in height. The second one is only some over a third as high and has small, narrow windows on three sides. The third is different, and its double windows look like Norman work. This story ends with a paneled battlement. A fourteenth century-looking stone spire has been built above this. I can give no authority for my opinion that this tower was some centuries in building



Another View of Maltby Church – on opposite page
Interior View, also a Reproduction of Belfry Door.



Interior View of Church



Belfry Door

but judge this is true from illustrations in books on English architecture.

I have often wished I might have seen Canon Greenwell again after the visit to Maltby for I am sure he would have refreshed his memory of his visit there and given me valuable information.

The sexton opened the old chest in the vestry room to allow us to see the old records. The very oldest were written on parchment and were mildewed with age. I thought I could decipher one date as 1609 but I am not sure.

We could not learn that anyone of the name of Maltby was resting in the churchyard, or lived in the parish, within the sexton's memory nor had he ever heard of the name in the records. On the last subject he would hardly be authority. He showed us some very old carved stones, one of which is supposed to have been the cross of the bishop who consecrated the first of the three churches to stand on the site of the present one.

The headstones in the church yard did not look old and their dates were not such, while the names they bore were ordinary English names.

We were told that in digging for the foundations of a new house in the south of the village, the workmen found graves and it was thought that the ground belonged to an ancient burial place.

The old market-cross testifies to the age of the hamlet, Is was surrounded by flower-beds and occupied a small plot of ground in the heart of the town.

The houses of the village are simple and plain but comfortable with the cleanly air so common in England. The streets were narrow but clean. The whole

town looked like a conservation old English place, as it is, with trees about its boundaries and in the lawns of the larger houses.

Maltby Hall is an old place with some fine trees about it. We did not enter it as the hour was growing late and we had a train to catch in Carrisboro for our return and our journey on to Lincoln that night.

Some weeks later, in the Library of the British Museum I found what I copied there and give with this for your information.

If was nearly dark when we set down at the railway station and the hour was decidedly late when I finished writing in my diary and turned—a tired, happy woman to retire. I had seen Maltby parish. Whether there is any connection between it and the family name, who can tell us?

EDITOR'S NOTE:--We feel greatly indebted to Miss Martha J. Maltby for her fascinating article on Maltby, and grateful for every bit of observation and study which she has given us in this interesting sketch of her day at Maltby. The Genealogist would like to add one item concerning the last sentence Hugo de Malebisse (Latin of Maltby) held land in Ebor (Yorkshire) at the time of the Norman Conquest, and his lands are recorded in the Domesday book. Many years ago the British Consul at Brussels, Belgium, was a Mr. Maltby. This Mr. Maltby took much interest in the Maltby family and spent all his spare time in the British Museum looking up the family records. After years of such research he said he was convinced that all the Maltbys descended from Hugo de Malebisse, from whom the village of



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Ruins of the Abbey of Roche, Founded 1147,
Two Miles S. E. of Maltby



Another Manor House Near Maltby.

Maltby, Yorkshire, took its name.

Whether we can all prove our ancestry back to this Hugo is quite another matter, but there can be little doubt that the village of Maltby took its name from Hugo de Maltby, and we believe we are correct in thinking Maltby is the land recorded in the Domesday Book.

There are several villages in Great Britain named Maltby—five or six are in England, one or two are in Ireland. So far as we can learn Maltby, Yorkshire, is the oldest of these, and evidently the English ancestry of the Maltbys begins here.

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The following is copied from “Kelly Directory of West Riding of Yorkshire, England, 1897,” in the Library of the British Museum, by Miss Martha J. Maltby.

“MALTBY PARISH AND TOWNSHIP in the Doucaster Division of Riding in the Rotterham union and county court district and rural deanery, archdeanery of Sheffield and diocese of York.

The church of St. Bartholomew is a plain building of stone in Gothic style and was rebuilt with the exception of the tower in 1859 on the site of the former church. It consists of chancel, nave, aisles, south porch and western tower with spire containing three bells.

There are several memorial windows, lecturn, organ and lynchgate of carved oak and a lynch-stone which were given by Miss Crossley and Miss Mary Crossley

in 1880. The lynchgate and stone were given in memory of their mother.

The register dates from 1678 (see foot note) and is in good condition. The living is a vicarage, average tithe rent charge 58 pounds, net yearly values 90 pounds, including 30 acres of glebe with residence is the gift of the Earl of Scarborough. The poor estate produces 28 pounds yearly. In the village stands an ancient stone cross.

Two miles S. E. are the ruins of the once magnificent Abbey of Roche or de Rupe, founded in 1147 by Richard de Busti and Richard Fitz-Turgis for monks of Cistercian order, and dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary. A natural phenomenon heightened by art probably induced the monks to settle in this rocky limestone valley. A fracture in the rocks bearing some resemblance to Our Savior on the cross was held in great reverence during the whole period of the existence of the abbey. Henry Crandall the 28th and last abbot surrendered the abbey with 17 monks and a yearly revenue, 271 pounds, 11 shillings and four pence to Dugdale. Henry VIII granted to Wm. Ramesden and Thomas Valasor the ruin of the once extensive and splendid abbey.

The Earl of Scarborough has made some excavations in the ruins.

Sandbeck Park 2 ½ miles S. E. of the village is the seat of the Earl of Scarborough, Lord. Lieut. Of the Riding, and Lord of the manor and principal landowner. The mansion is a spacious edifice erected about the middle of the last century and a fairly timbered park of 350 acres, surrounded by extensive woods well stocked with deer. Attached to the Hall

is a private chapel where services are conducted by the Earl's private chaplain.

The soil is limestone, some parts clay and loam. The subsoil limestone. Chief crops are wheat, barley and turnips, with some pasture.

Area of township 4096 acres. Rentable value, 4 pounds, 10 shillings and 2 pence. Population in 1891 was 709 and in the parish 766.

People of some importance: Earl of Scarborough, Sandbeck Park and Army and Navy and Carleton Clubs, London, S. W. Miss White of Maltby Hall. Miss Mary Elizabeth White, Ladies' Boarding School, Maltby Hall."

Note I. – Maltby is situated on the edge of the famous Sherwood forest.

Note II. – The station for Maltby for those going north is Rotherham, which is a little northeast of Sheffield, It is a seven mile drive from Rotherham to Maltby.

Note III. – There was not time to procure a photograph of the Norman town of Carrisboro, but we trust Booklet No. 3 will contain this view.

Note IV. – From a list of Yorkshire parish registers we quote the following:

Records begin—

Maltby—1597.

Muston—1542.

Dorcaster—1557.

Rotherham—1556. (Published.)

Tickhill—1538.

Note V. – The Secretary has some four of five dozen different views of Maltby, and will gladly furnish the addresses of English firms where these photographs can be procured.

The following English pedigree we give as it contains some interesting data:

1. —Hugo de Malebisse held lands at the time of the Norman Conquest. He had three sons, Richard, *Hugo* and Guilford.

Guilford was interred in Beverly Abbey, Co. Lincoln in 1172.

2. —Hugo de Malebisse mar. Emma de Percy, dau. And heir. Of Henry de Percy of Acaster. He had Hugo, *Richard*, William, Simon and Matilda. Hugo mar. Beatrix, Lady of Manor of Wylses. Co. Cambridge. Founded Priory of Spinney, time of Henry III.—William held lands in Cleveland, built Chapel at Ayton where he was Lord of the Manor before 1200.—Simon, Lord of Cowton in Craven; he had a son Sir Hercules who changed his name to Beckwith on his marriage in 1226 with Lady Dame Beckwith Bruce. He was a descendant of Sir Hercules, Marmon Beckwith, who in 1339 had a dispute with Hugh Maltby over the right to use the Maltby coat-of-arms.

3. —Richard, founded Newbo Abbey, Lincolnshire 1198, Acaster, near York, died 1209, Justican. Forester for Yorkshire. He had Emma, John, Robertus.

4. —John, 1213.

5. —William, Byland Abbey, 1247, mar. Matilda, dau. Of and co-heir of Ralph Neville.

6. —William, lord to Priory of Bridlington, 1267.

7. —Richard, Miles, 1311—Acaster—Malebis (de Eya.)

8. —John, Lord Ul-y-Miles. Viscountes Ebor; High Sheriff Co. York, 1314, d. 1316.

9. —William, Miles, 1339.

10. —Walter, on going to the Holy Lands, mortgaged Scalton to William Fairfax.

The above pedigree ends here, as the male line evidently died out. The pedigree shows that the Maltbys were a prominent family and the intermarriages were with some of the oldest and best families. It will be observed that they founded several abbeys and priories. An English clergyman told the writer that the sheaf of wheat in the Maltby coat-of-arms showed that the family had been large holders of church lands.