U DP170   **Estate Papers relating to Buckton**   1854-1868

Historical background:

Buckton Hall is outside the small village of Buckton, three miles north of Flamburgh. It sits on high ground less than a mile from the cliffs at Speeton. It is a Georgian four storey house with a chalk ashlar front and stone dressings. It was built by John Robinson probably about 1744. It was certainly standing in 1745 when he entertained some Jacobite rebels from Scotland, getting them roaring drunk on rum, before fetching the regiment from Bridlington and having them arrested and then transported to the colonies (Johnson, 'Buckton Hall', pp. 27, 29; U DDX/16/209; Allison, Victoria county history of Yorkshire: East Riding, ii, p. 83).

The manor of Buckton was held by the Buckton family from the at least the 13th century (one William de Buckton attended parliament in 1258) to the 16th century when Ursula Buckton married John Collingwood and then inherited the estate. Their son Robert Collingwood sold the manor in 1617 to Thomas Blakiston who immediately resold to Henry Robinson. The Robinsons were a family of London merchants of moderate means. Henry Robinson, who died in 1653, married Margaret Colthurst, and had several children, including another Henry Robinson, who died without issue, and John Robinson, who died in 1659. The latter left several children, including his eldest son, John Robinson (b.1640) and a younger son, Henry, who was commander of H M S 'Cornwall'. John Robinson lived until 1700; he married Adeline Conyers and their eldest son, also John Robinson, inherited the estate and went on to replace an old hall with Buckton Hall of circa 1744 (U DDX/16/209; Rudkin, 'Bempton cum Newsholme', p.21; Allison, Victoria county history of Yorkshire: East Riding, ii, p. 83).

John Robinson married Hannah Foulis and and he settled his estate on his daughter Hannah and her husband, William, another member of the Foulis family, in 1758, over a decade before he died in 1769. By this means Buckton passed from the Robinson to the Foulis family of Ingleby. The Foulis family was originally from Scotland and had a long history of public service to Scottish monarchs. William Foulis was secretary to James I in 1424 and keeper of the privy seal in 1427 and his great grandson, James, was clerk register to Queen Mary in the 1530s and 1540s. His grandson, also James, married Anna Heriot and one of their younger children, David, came to England with James VI of Scotland when he became James I of England. He was knighted in 1619 and given Ingleby as a reward for service. William Foulis was from this branch of the family (Johnson, 'Buckton Hall', p.33; U DDX/16/209; U DP166/83).

William Foulis and Hannah Robinson's son, John Robinson Foulis, married Decima Hester Beatrix Sykes, eldest daughter of Christopher Sykes, 2nd baronet Sykes of Sledmere. The documents relating to this lucrative marriage settlement are to be found at U DP166/77-80. From these it can be ascertained that Christopher Sykes settled on his daughter a mansion and valuable land at West Heslerton, originally bought by him in 1787 (U DP166/50-52) and a marriage portion of £10,000. When John Robinson Foulis died in 1826, he was able to leave to his daughters £15,000, while the halls and lands at West Heslerton and Buckton were inherited by his son, Mark Foulis (U DDX/16/209; U DP166/82).

Over the next two decades Mark Foulis slid into financial difficulty; he did not have enough capital to run his estates and he tended to bet on the horses (U DP166/68). In 1842 he mortgaged his estates to William and Alfred Simpson of New Malton (U DP166/17-20). Although Mark Foulis did not die until 1868, Buckton Hall and all his estates were in the hands of these trustees and others by 1856 (see for example U DP166/27, 75). Mark Foulis

did not marry and folklore abounds about his occupancy of Buckton Hall. According to one story, the only sailor to survive a wreck under the cliffs at Speeton, while recuperating at Buckton Hall was so frightened by the fearful noises at night that he wished to leave in an unseemly hurry. Credence is lent to this story by the survival of letters from the privy council for trade and the customs house at Scarborough giving Mark Foulis the right to a wreck washed ashore at Buckton in 1857 (U DP166/40). The noises in the night have a non-supernatural explanation - Buckton Hall was connected to the beach by tunnels through the cliffs and as late as 1931 there was still a smugglers' hoist in the kitchen (U DDX/16/209).

After Mark Foulis died the trustees sold the Buckton estates in two lots, in 1869. Old tenants, Joseph and William Jackson, bought some of it and the Jackson family still held Buckton Hall when descendants of the Robinson family visited in 1928 and again in 1931. By that time much of the interior of the house had been destroyed by a fire in 1919 and other parts of the estate had passed through several hands (U DDX/16/209; Allison, Victoria county history of Yorkshire: East Riding, ii, p. 83).

Custodial History:
Purchased from WD Trivess, Meonstoke, Southampton in May 1982

Description:
Two particulars of sale (1854 and 1868) for the Manor of Buckton with Buckton Hall.

Extent: 2 items

Related Material:
U DDSY Papers of the Sykes Family of Sledmere
U DP166 Estate Papers relating to Buckton

Access Conditions:
Access will be given to any accredited reader

U DP170/1	Particulars of Sale: - - manor of Buckton with Buckton Hall and 1789ac. 3r. 12p.; and 31ac. 3r. in Bempton 1 item	23 Jun 1854
U DP170/2	Particulars of Sale: - - manor of Buckton with Buckton Hall and 1789ac. 3r. 12p.; and 31ac. 3r. in Bempton 1 item	26 Jun 1868