



*A Brontë Moorland Village
and its People :*

A History of Stanbury

By
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P R E F A C E

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Much information has been taken from a diary which was written by the writer's grandfather, Joseph Craven, during the years 1811-1868. This diary has for some years been in the possession of an aunt, Mrs. W. Pickles, Pecket Well, Hebden Bridge, and he desires to acknowledge here the kindness to which he owes access to the diary.

And he asks for a kindly verdict from his readers on an effort for which he knows he is equipped by almost a single qualification only—his love for his moorland village birthplace.

Keighley,

July, 1907.



A HISTORY OF STANBURY

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTORY

STANBURY is a hamlet in the township of Haworth and Parish of Bradford, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. * "It is seated upon the very pinnacle of a precipitous hill well cultivated to the summit. The village, interspersed with trees, strongly contrasts with the naked appearance of the surrounding country. Stane or Stonyburgh seems to have been the original name. From the termination "bury" or "burgh," it is not improbable that some fortifications stood here in ancient days. I strongly suspect, but have not had time to make sufficient inquiries on the subject, that here was a small station on the Roman way from "Calunio" (Colne) to some of the stations to the east and south of Bradford. From the Conquest to the present, Stanbury has remained part and parcel of the Manor of Bradford. It is now impossible to say by what strange caprice a place eleven miles distant from Bradford and separated from the Manor eight miles, should, notwithstanding the subinfeudation of all the places in the parish with the exception of it and Manningham, still continue through the lapse of seven centuries connected with Bradford Manor.

"Anciently nearly all the inhabitants of Stanbury were *Nativi* or Bondmen of the Manor of Bradford.

* *James' History of Bradford.*

Till within the last one hundred years a large portion of the land in Stanbury was copyhold; since then some has become freehold by enfranchisement and more by the neglect of the lord."

It has Haworth on the east, Haworth Moor on the south, Oldfield (a scattered village in the Parish of Keighley) on the north, and Stanbury Moor on the west.

It was a village at the time of the Bridle Paths, and to understand Stanbury aright, as it was then, we shall have to forget the present roads. To go to Haworth, the old path would take us down Smith Bank and up Water Lane to Haworth Moor, just above the Intake Farm. Here we should turn to the left for Haworth. To the right a road leads to Harbour Hole, as it used to be called, but now best known by the name of Harbour Springs. From Water Lane going right across the moor we should come to Marsh, Oxenhope, Horkinstone, Sawood, Bradshaw Head and Denholme, and from Denholme, on the right, to Halifax, and, on the left, to Bradford. Halifax was the principal place at that time. Colne was reached from Stanbury by going up Hob Hill, along Law Lane to Cold Knowl, thence to Buckley Green, Rush Isles and Ponden, forward to Whitestone and Silver Hill, across the Worth to Keighley Parish side, to Woolstones or Wolfstones, and then forward over Lancashire Moor.

It is a village of about 118 houses, and including Lumb Foot and Sladen Bridge, Hob Hill and Hob Lane, Smith Bank and Milking Hill, all the houses would be about 152 in number. About seventy years since, Stanbury was a thriving place and there could not have been far off one thousand inhabitants in the neighbourhood.* Hand-loom weaving and hand-

* In 1841 the population of Stanbury was 946 souls; in 1871, 754; and in 1904, 448.

combing were the principal occupations of the people. Every farm was occupied, and on most of these farms weaving and combing went on besides the farming. It was a common practice for the people to take a field to grow their own potatoes. Oats and barley were also grown. Nearly every family numbered eight persons, and some as many as twelve and fifteen. The names which were common at that time are nearly gone to-day. Ratcliffe was a name which was common. Howker was another name which was very common, and Sunderlands, Shackletons, and Heys were very numerous. The Taylors seemed to have been the principal landlords since 1743 (see chapter vii.).