



# K I R K L E Y H A L L

CONFERENCES | WEDDINGS | EVENTS

## *Kirkley Hall - the past to date*



The history of Kirkley Hall is a complex and fascinating one. Its location in one of England's Border Counties ensures a turbulent past. The Hall's past occupants have not only shaped the regions history but have also made an impact on the nation.

Members of the Ogle family have been.....

- Physician to the Army (Fighting with Simon de Montford against Henry III)
- Sheriff of Northumberland
- Governor of Newcastle
- Lord Steward of the Kings Household
- Constable of Dover Castle
- Dean of Winchester
- Admiral of the Fleet

### *Scandal*

Nathaniel Ogle, when he was 20 years old eloped with a 17 year old Quaker girl. Rumours of the time suggest a fellow army officer who masqueraded as a clergyman by wearing a surplice conducted a marriage ceremony.

The Quarter Session of Easter 1723 recorded an "attempted adultery", concerning John Robson and Francis Charlton both of Kirkley. The two had been out drinking after church and on their return to Francis's house found her husband in bed. John Robson 'laid his arms about her waist' and said he had a great desire to lay with her, whereupon Francis called for help. The outcome is not documented.

### *Intrigue*

The 'strange robbery' at Kirkley Hall on 3 April 1809 when the sum of £1,157. 13s 6d was stolen. Most of the money was mysteriously found in various gardens around the Estate. James Charlton was suspected, brought to trial, found guilty and sentenced to death. The sentence was later commuted. Charlton's fate and the identity of the real culprit remains a mystery.



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## *Mischief*

Sir William Noble, a staunch Presbyterian posed a threat to the Vicar of Ponteland who wrote to the Bishop of Newcastle and warned of “difficulties ahead” saying that Sir William “was not very friendly to him”. Sir William parked a bus outside the Parish Church at Evensong in an attempt to ‘poach’ parishioners from Ponteland to his Kirkley Chapel, St. Barnabas.

The relationship sank to an all time low when Sir William exhumed his wife’s body from the Parish churchyard and moved her to the grounds of the unconsecrated Chapel at Kirkley where Sir William was also buried on his death. The Chapel has now become a dwelling house and the memorial stone relating to the Nobles was stolen in recent years.

## *History of the Hall*

### **1175**

Kirkley was originally known as.....*CRICKELAWE*

- Cryc in Celtic meaning Hill

- Lawe in Old English meaning Hill

**So Crickelawe means Hill Hill !!**

This duplication seems to have occurred when the meaning of the original word was forgotten. The land formed part of the Barony of Mitford which was under the control of Roger Bertram.

### **1257**

Kirkley became a manor in its own right.

### **1267**

Hugh de Eure married the daughter of Roger Bertram III and inherited Kirkley.

The land was recorded then as being in the possession of the de Eure family.

### **1327**

Sir John de Eure inherited the land from his father but later had it seized because of his father’s sympathy with the Scots. Later his land was returned to him upon the payment of £400.

### **1509**

At this time the land was owned by Sir Ralph de Eure, Lord Warden of the East Marches, who was responsible for keeping peace and order at a time when the Scots were making frequent raids across the Border.

### **1526**

In this year the name Ogle appears for the first time in relation to Kirkley in that John Ogle is mentioned as being “of Kirkley”. John Ogle was a tenant and farm steward of Sir Ralph de Eure.

### **1563**

One of the earliest mentions of Kirkley Hall recorded is a football match. Roger Hopper was on his way to see the “yough of Kirkley play at fottball”!



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## 1610

Ralph de Eure, Lord of the Manor, leased a house and other property and land to Mark Ogle and others.

## 1612

Ralph Lord Eure sold to Mark Ogle and Cuthbert Ogle of Kirkley, the Manor House, half the township of Kirkley and 930 acres of land for £1,100.

## 1632

Cuthbert Ogle built a new manor house on a site to the south of the present hall. He and his wife Dorothy's initials can still be seen on the stone lintel above the main porch and windows of the present Hall.

The original manor house was pulled down in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century but the line of the original drive can still be seen crossing Cadgers Burn between Monument Hill and Sawbridge Field.

## 1722

Captain Challoner Ogle, a Navy Captain, distinguished himself in action off the African coast by capturing 3 pirate ships including the pirate Roberts. He returned a national hero and received a Knighthood and a huge sum of prize money. In 1749 he became Admiral of the Fleet.

Dr Nathaniel Ogle, described as 'Physician to the Forces', is reported as an owner of Kirkley Estate.

## 1762

The Reverend Newton Ogle, the brother of Dr Nathaniel inherited the property. Newton Ogle later became Dean of Winchester and was also a Prebendary of Durham Cathedral. During his occupancy of Kirkley he bought up most of the land lying between Blagdon and Milbourne and between Ponteland and Morpeth.

## 1764

The Rev. Newton Ogle developed the Hall on the present site around the Cedar of Lebanon tree which still stands in the courtyard today. The stables belonging to this house, which is now the Upland Resource Centre, and the East Wing with the lantern of the Clock tower still remains today.



## 1788



The Obelisk was erected on 'a grassy knoll' to commemorate the centenary of the landing in this country of William of Orange and his wife Mary, and the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688-9. The inscription, now impossible to decipher through weathering read:

**Vindicatae Libertatis Publicae Anno Centesimo  
Salutis MDCCLXXXVIII Newton Ogle P**

The Eastern Archway dates from this period and its outline was with that of the Cedar Tree was adopted as the Kirkley Hall College logo and is now the logo of the Friends of Kirkley Hall.



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## 1804

Newton Ogle was succeeded by his sons, Nathaniel and the Reverend John Saville Ogle. On the death of Nathaniel, John Saville Ogle inherited Kirkley in 1813 and later developed the Hall.

## 1832

Exactly 200 years after the Hall was first built it was extensively altered and became a three storey building. The Park was extended, the main gateposts with bull and antelope heads and the South Lodge were built.

A stone to the right of the main door of the present Hall carries the date of these alterations.



John Saville Ogle was also responsible for the development of St. Barnabas Chapel in 1845 and it is possible that the Walled Garden was created in his lifetime.

## 1853

Edward Challoner Ogle succeeded to Kirkley Hall on the death of his father, John Saville Ogle. The size of the estate at this time was 7,518 acres.

## 1912

John Francis Challoner Ogle inherited the Estate from his father, Newton Charles Ogle and by 1922 he had debts amounting to £39,000.

## 1922

5901 acres of the estate were sold, comprising 21 farms. The remainder of the Estate was leased off by John Francis Challoner Ogle. This marked the end of the Ogles as significant landowners at Kirkley Hall, after 310 years.

## 1923

Sir William Noble, an affluent Newcastle ship owner, leased the hall and part of the estate and by 1928 he had purchased it for £14,500.

## 1929

A fire destroyed the Hall completely, though the courtyard buildings remained. Some of the present boundary wall was built using the charred stones from the remains of the fire.

## 1930

The Hall was rebuilt as a two storey building according to a simplified plan and using stone from Chesters. This restoration is recorded on the drainpipes on the south elevation of the Hall. Sir William had his Coat of Arms carved above the main door and also worked into the stained glass window on the main staircase. In recognition of his work in shipping and international trade Sir William was created Baron and took the title Lord Kirkley.





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## **1935**

On the death of Lord Kirkley, his daughters inherited the Estate and Lady Redhead became tenant of the Hall.

## **1948**

The Hall, 4 lodges, Bankhead Steading and 260 acres of land were sold to Northumberland County Council for approximately £25,000 by Mrs Williamson-Noble.

## **1951**

Kirkley Hall Farm Institute was opened with Mr D. Elsmore as the first Principal.

## **1958**

Broadlaw Farm was purchased to extend the Institute's farming activities to include a Beekeeping Centre.

## **1959**

Four houses were built at Kirkley Park.

## **1965**

Mr J.E. Scott was appointed as Principal.

## **1967**

The main student residential block was completed.

## **1968**

Name changed to Northumberland College of Agriculture and Mr P.W. Blake was appointed as Principal.

## **1972 and 1976**

The steadings at Broadlaw and Kirkley were rebuilt. Broadlaw beef shed and silage clamp was rebuilt.

## **1973**

Broadlaw Old Steading was demolished, and fattening shed, hay and implement store erected. Two houses were built adjacent to Hall. Part of East wing renovated to provide two dormitories for Link Courses.

## **1976**

Kirkley Steading was partially demolished. The parlour, cubicle house and slurry system were built costing approximately £42,000.

## **1978**

The College became tenants of Carlcroft, the hill farm in the Coquet Valley. Further developments at Kirkley Steading involved the building of calf housing. A start was made on the Recreation Hall with part of the steel frame erected.

## **1984**

Another residential block, Blythlaw, for students was completed.



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## **1989**

The name of the College was changed to Kirkley Hall College

## **1996**

New science laboratories opened.

## **1997**

New equine centre opened

## **1999**

Kirkley Hall College merged with Northumberland College and became Northumberland College at Kirkley Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000.

## **2000**

The Uplands Learning Resource Centre opened in September 2000.

## **2005**

Ancestors of the Ogle family, the Ogle Family Association of America, held their annual reunion at Kirkley Hall for 6 days in July 2005. Seventy Ogle descendants from all over the USA, Canada and New Zealand came to visit the many places in Northumberland linked to their ancestors. They enjoyed it so much they plan a return trip in 2008.

## **Today**

Kirkley Hall campus is now Northumberland College's second biggest campus and offers a complete range of land based courses from equine studies to horticulture. The extensive land and grounds offer ideal hands on learning opportunities for students.