

erected lays claim to high antiquity. It may be described as a large and venerable pile, with two deep wings and towers, embattled and supported at the angles by strong projecting buttresses, all of which contributed to give it a most formidable and castle-like appearance.

It was formerly a complete quadrangle with four turrets at the angles, the south side of which had walls more than six feet thick, constructed with grout work, and of that peculiar species of rude masonry which indicates an early date. The side opposite was rebuilt by Richard Townley immediately before his death, in 1628. A new building was added to the north by William Townley, who died in 1741. On the north-east side were two turrets, in the angles a gateway, a chapel and sceristy with a library above. These were removed by Charles Townley in 1700, and placed in their present position, the stonework, wain-scot, and everything to which the effects of consecration could be supposed to extend (brought from Whalley) have been preserved entire. All these had been the work of Sir John Townley, Knt. A large and well lighted room was added by Richard Townley, in 1725. An unbroken series of family portraits formerly adorned this hall.

The appearance of the estate in front and rear of the mansion is such as the most fastidious artist might fail to conceive of, gently sloping upwards from the front, the fields are stocked with finely bred sheep and cattle, while clumps of trees at intervals shade the retired herds; the old and sturdy oak, with outstretched arms, stands prominent on every side, as ready to wave its new-formed leaflets in the evening breeze as to defy the storm king's fiercest blast. Behind the mansion new and varied scenes meet the eye,

"Hills peep o'er hills," and wooded valleys vie  
With their surrounding hills to catch the eye

The careless pheasant, the indolent hare, and the unfrightened deer, give unmistakable evidence of well guarded preserves. Meandering along the green hedge-skirted pathway, flows a crystal stream, bearing its bountiful surplus supplies to swell the confluent waters of the Calder and the Brun rivers.

The "Villa de Funlay" formed part of the parish of Whalley, and was the property of the Church, but the Deans appear to have assumed the right of transmitting to their descendants in fee simple the lands held and enclosed by them, as shown in the following pedigree:—