

Rev. Henry Curren Wilson and Sir Mathew Wilson (1st Baronet Wilson of Eshton)

In 1801, Frances Mary Richardson Curren's mother, Margaret Clive Wilson, married her cousin Mathew Wilson.

When Frances Mary Richardson Curren died, in 1861, she left the Kildwick estate to her half-brother, Rev. Henry Curren Wilson (born in 1803). He died, unmarried, in 1866, and the estate passed to his older brother - Mathew.

Mathew Wilson was probably not named as the heir to Frances Mary Richardson Curren, although he was the oldest son of the family, as by then he had already inherited the Eshton Hall estate from his father, in 1854. However, when his brother Henry Curren Wilson died he came into the Kildwick estate too.

Mathew Wilson was a politician and was MP for Clitheroe between 1841 and 42 and again between 1847 and 1853.

In August 1842, as a magistrate, it was Mathew Wilson who read the Riot Act from the steps of Skipton Town Hall, in Sheep Street, which ordered the "Plug Rioters" from Colne to disperse. This proclamation was ignored by the protestors and led to the "Anna Fields Fight", described in the first part of our article on Chartism.

He was made 1st Baronet Wilson of Eshton in 1874 and later that year became MP for the West Riding. He was subsequently MP for Skipton between 1885 and 1886.

A statue to him stands in Skipton High Street.



The statue of Sir Mathew Wilson on Skipton High Street

He died on 18 January 1891, at the age of 88.

Uniquely for a member of the Wilson family, Mathew Wilson actually lived for a time at Kildwick Hall. This was between around 1825 and 1841, when Eshton Hall was being remodelled to accommodate Frances Mary Richardson Currer's library amongst other changes.

It is possible that, from the time he was resident at Kildwick Hall, Mathew Wilson took over the management of the Kildwick estate, even though Frances Mary Richardson Currer was still alive.

He is known to have created a new carriage drive at the Hall (now Hall Gardens) and the road up to Crag Top, as well remodelling the dining room at the Hall - that bears Frances Mary Richardson Currer's signature stone.

Sources

[The Wilsons of Eshton: bricks and books](#)

[Kildwick Hall Historical Sketch, by J.J. Brigg](#)

[Mathew Wilson – Wikipedia](#)

[Wilson Baronets of Eshton – Wikipedia](#)

[Country Life visit Kildwick Hall \(1911\)](#)