



## **Historical Facts about Lower Greys, Lower Burney, Lower Estate**

**Today's Yorkshire plantation was called Upper Greys and both Upper and Lower, adjacent, were owned by Richard Gray 300 years ago.**

**Also known as The Valley and Fertile Hall.**

**The most important owners were the Senhouse family.**

**The Senhouse Papers, 1762-1831 in Carlisle Record Office. Introduction to the microfilm collection by Richard B. Sheridan University of Kansas 1977 2,100 folios of the papers of William Senhouse and his brother Joseph Senhouse.**

**'Recollections of William Senhouse', Surveyor General of Customs of Barbados and the Leeward Islands, which runs to 363 pages.**

**In 1770 he was appointed to the customs service in the West Indies. From 1771 to 1799 he lived in Barbados except for short visits to other islands and several trips to England. In 1772 he married Mary Samson Wood, daughter and heiress of a well-to-do planter of Barbados. From this union were born eight sons and three daughters. By the influence of Sir James Lowther, 5th Baronet and Member of Parliament for Carlisle, William Senhouse was appointed Surveyor General of the Customs in Barbados and the Windward and Leeward Islands. Senhouse was in charge of collecting the duties owing to the Crown from the four-and-a half per cent duty levied on the exports of colonial produce.**

**Like numerous other public officials, William Senhouse purchased a sugar plantation and combined his customs office with the rural life of a gentleman planter. He also received a power of attorney to superintend Sir James Lowther's plantation in Barbados. Senhouse paid £18,000 for 'The Grove' plantation in St Philip's Parish. 1772: married Elizabeth Ward Wood, daughter and heiress of Samson Wood, planter of Barbados. They had 3 daughters and 8 sons. Died in 1800.**

**He wrote of the unlucky succession of bad crops which were caused by drought and heat, together with the yellow blast, black blast, ants and innumerable host of vermin. Far more spectacular in its destructive power was the hurricane of 1780 which he described in minute detail. Senhouse himself lost six negro slaves and numerous head of livestock besides buildings and growing crops. On the whole island of Barbados the hurricane reportedly killed 2033 slaves and 6817 horses and cattle and destroyed other property to a total value of about £1 million.**

**In 1781, for example, William Senhouse had 84 of his own slaves and 54 of Sir James Lowther's negroes inoculated against smallpox for a charge of five shillings each.**

**Brother Joseph appointed Collector of customs in Dominica, bought property there, returned to Carlisle and became Mayor and knighted Grandson of William, Edmund Hooper Senhouse bought Lower Greys in 1843 – in family to 1914 ... 1916 in Chancery ... a Mrs. Senhouse removed to Black Rock and told fortunes in the 1940s and 50s....**

**While a relatively modest plantation house, Lower Greys House had a very deep cellar, has undergone significant changes over the years, and retains some very old beams which Jenny Marshall revealed in her excellent and sensitive restoration.**