

Naming Maisongill, Great Asby

(...as told by Linda, Elsie Raine's daughter, while making arrangements for her mother's funeral in May 2017.)

When the Raines lived there (*dates unspecified*) the farm was known as Muddygill. (*And in the early 2000s it was still regularly referred to, by elderly residents such as Elsie Birkbeck, as Muddygill.*)

The Raines found they were having trouble selling stock at market and understood that it was the farm's name that was putting people off as it suggested poorly drained pasture and subsequent consequences for its stock. So they decided to do something about it.

They looked at early deeds and found that originally the farm had been called Mid-day Gill – because the sun only reached into the local gill at its daily highest. It is quite understandable how Mid-day Gill could easily elide through speech over time into Muddygill.

Eventually the Raines plumped for Maisongill:

- a) because it was known that the family had Norman forebears and
- b) there was already a house there.

So, using the French for house, they decided on Maisongill.

...and one assumes that stock sales improved.