

Hope in the 1850s

10. Main Street – Edale Rod

Our tour of Hope turns the corner into what is now Edale Road, but in 1850 was known as Main Street. Standing on the corner today it is interesting to see the changes that have occurred in 170 years. Buildings have been demolished or altered and new ones have appeared. Even so the original character of the street remains much as it was in those far off days. Many of the houses (tofts) are built side on to the road with land (or croft) running away in a long ribbon beyond. To have a piece of land on which you could keep hens and a pig and grow your own vegetables and herbs was important in helping to keep your family fed. None of the houses are imposing. They were built of the local stone, (perhaps brought down from the parish quarry at Crookstone), usually on a plinth but with no damp proof course. The windows were also small so they did not let in too much cold in winter and kept the house cool in summer. At some stage many of the houses were covered with grey pebble-dash.

It has been difficult to find out who lived in which house on Main Street from the 1851 census because the enumerator did not give a house number to the properties. However the 1847 Tythe map gives a list of owners and tenants and that has helped to fix many addresses.



We start with the three houses that were originally a wing of Hope Hall. They stood where Café Adventure now stands. Many Hope residents will remember Mrs Mills's grocers and Mrs Thorpe's draper's shops before they were demolished in 1958. The first house is still there as Old Hall Cottage and the Church shop is where Mr Watson had his butcher's shop. We think that Old Hall Cottage was a dame school run by Mary and Hannah Bennet. Seth Evans in his "History of Hope" in the Derbyshire Times of 1922 certainly places them there. One of the other two houses was run as a lodging house by Elizabeth Robertson helped by a fifteen year old servant, Ann Bolsover. There were two lodgers, Betty and Ann Dakin aged 24 and 21 who describe themselves as "Landed Proprietors". Also living there was Elizabeth's sixty three year old brother who was a weaver. We think the third house was empty at this time.

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