

Hope in the 1850s

11. Nos.1 - 4 Edale Road

Much of what we have learned about local houses stems from a Historical Society project in which members researched the history of their own homes. I am indebted to Christine Davies for the information about the houses that are now 1- 4 Edale Road.

The whole of the terrace on this side of the road is confusing in its make-up. The house on the corner seems to have varied from being part of the Durham Ox on Castleton Road and part of the terrace on Main Street. This photograph of the row of houses at the start of Main Street shows that at one time there was a doorway with a sign above it leading into the Durham Ox. The next door gives on to a passage leading to the back of the properties and there are four houses in the rest of the terrace. If you look closely at the stonework today you can still find evidence of doors and windows that have been altered. In 1851 the Durham Ox and the houses were owned by George Nuttall and there were four homes. Number 1 had been lived in by William Watson who had died recently and this was empty.



George Rowland and his family lived in the second of the houses in the terrace. He was a blacksmith, brother of Thomas Rowland who owned the smithy on Castleton Road. His wife, Mary and three children, Mary (16), Charles (7), at school and Elizabeth (3) lived with him and also his mother-in-law, Martha Harrison

who is described as a pauper, late a farmer, born in Aston.

Robert Shirt and family lived in the third house in the row. Robert was an agricultural labourer and he and his wife Rachel had five sons. The eldest two, Isaac (16) and George (12) were "at home" as were the youngest Henry (6) and Joseph (3). Only Robert (10) was at school.

William Thorpe lived in the last of the houses at the time of the Tythe apportionment in 1847 but there is no record of any Thorpes in the Census three years later, so two of the houses may have been empty.

.Ann Price & Christine Davies