

Hope in the 1850s

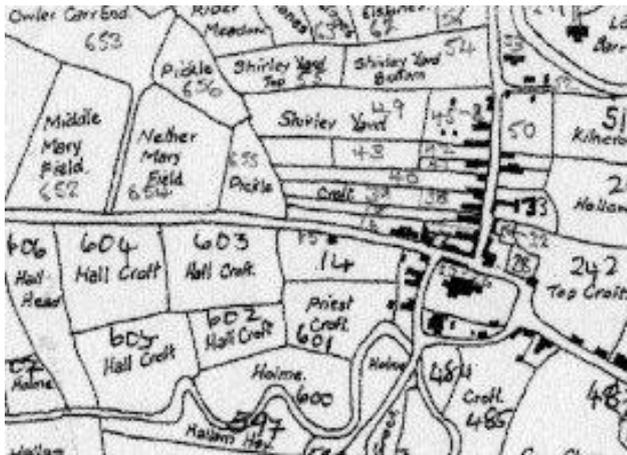
12. Edale Road/Main Street – The Tythe Barn

The next house in the road is the Tythe Barn and as we are using the 1847 Tythe map for this series of articles this seems a good place to talk about tithes and tithing

Tithes were a church tax on everyone. In medieval times they were levied in goods. The Great Tithe of lamb, wool, hay, corn and minerals went to the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral as rectors of the parish. The vicar received the lesser tithe which included honey, produce from the vicar's fields and the Easter dues. Most villages had a tithe barn in which to store this harvest. After 1658 we know that this practice had been discontinued and payment was received in money. In Hope at Easter it was the custom to pay 2d on each cow, 1d on each calf and a penny from every keeper of sheep. Beekeepers paid 2d.

We don't know when our tithe barn became a house, but it is still possible to see that the upper storey has smart corner stones.

We are fortunate in Hope to have a copy of the 1847 Tythe Map hand-drawn by Edwin Chapman from the original in Derbyshire Record Office. Every field is numbered and named and the allotment accompanying the map also gives details of owners and tenants, acreage and use, so we know whether the land was pasture meadow or arable. Names of fields include Hays, Carrs and Pingles, all associated with land but there are others that hint at past histories. Bear Baiting is part of a field



on the corner of Aston Lane. Three Days Work is self-explanatory. Several fields include Butts in their name perhaps from the days when Hope archers were renowned. The intriguing Pouchmouth has now disappeared under the quarry. We still have much to learn from this special map.

If you take the path from Castleton Road to Eccles Close you climb the steps and enter the Croft belonging to John Tym. The line of trees mark the boundary with Joseph Wilcockson's Croft and as you go through the gate you are entering Shirley Yard now known as Shirley

Close. These narrow fields are the remains of medieval strip farming. We are walking through history.

Hope 1847 Tythe map – detail

Ann Price