

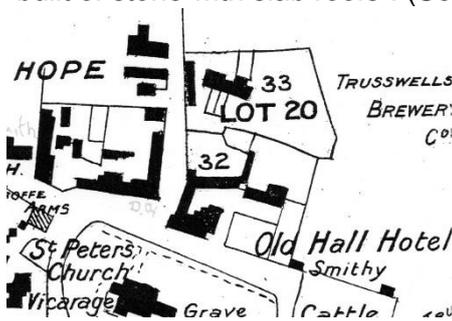
HOPE IN THE 1850S

14. Edale Road – The Fold

The Fold is an intriguing little cul-de-sac. It consists of two buildings. One fronts on to Edale Road and contains two houses. In 1850 the second provided four dwellings but there are now only three. They and the yard on the right belonged to the Hassop estate (the Earl of Newburgh). Originally there had been a further row of “weavers’ cottages” on the right hand side. These show up on the 1819 Enclosures award map, but have gone by the 1847 Tythe map. Amazing to realise that the houses in the Fold are over two hundred years old. The Historical Society’s housing advisor, Andrew Bower, has seen old re-used timbers inside one of the houses.

It has been more or less impossible to work out who lived in the Fold at this time. William Howe rented the barn yard, but we have no Hassop estate record of the period to tell us who rented the houses. However the more recent history of these houses tells an interesting story.

In October 1911 The Fold was put up for sale. Lot 20 of the Hassop Estate Sale consisted of six cottages “built of stone with slab roofs”. (See the Estate Sale brochure map). There is a detailed description of each house. The two on Edale road each had one bedroom with a living room, scullery and pantry downstairs. The first two houses of the second block had been combined to provide two bedrooms, two living rooms, a larder and a small garden. The third had two bedrooms, a living room, scullery, larder and a small garden. The last house in the row had two bedrooms, two downstairs rooms, a scullery and a cellar. There was also a small garden and a croft at the side of the house. The tenants at this time are named as Mrs Greaves, Mrs Shirt, Mrs Watson, Mr Townsend and Mr Harrison – all local names.



The cottages were bought by John Robert Watson. They were in a poor condition and he had new fronts put on to the larger row of houses and possibly the elaborate cement lintel on the centre house. He was said to have complained that the repairs nearly bankrupt him as he had to pay the stonemasons fourpence an hour.

In 2012, as part of the Hope/Castleton project, the Society were given permission to dig a metre square test pit in the back garden of one of the houses. We came upon a very nicely built stone structure which was eventually identified as a mortar pit. Whether this dated back to the original construction of the cottages or was part of John Robert Watson’s refurbishment it was difficult to say.

Research: Andrew Bower, Ann Price

Additional material: Robert Watson