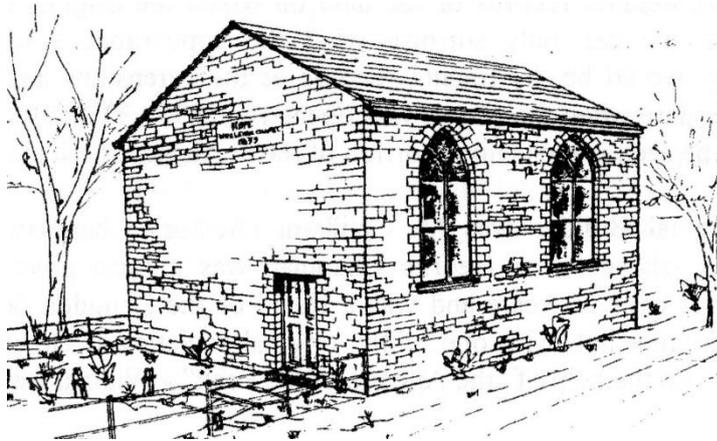


Hope in the 1850s

15. Edale Road - Chapel Walk

In 1824 the houses in Chapel Walk and the surrounding land belonged to Jacob Darwent of Thornhill. Local Methodists had been meeting in one another's homes until this time but in 1824 they bought the piece of land behind the cottages and set out to build a chapel. The signatories to the agreement were John Middleton, John Hobson, William Burgon and John and George Longden, all of Hope. The agreement says:-

"Wherein the said Jacob Darwent agrees to sell to the above mentioned persons 100 yards of land or thereabouts in the centre top of his gardens including a load in the front with the materials of a weaving shed, two pig holes and a necessary for the sum of £15."



It was a very simple building, using material from the demolished pigsties and weaving shed and stone from the Parish quarry up beyond Crookstone. The builder was William (Arthur) Chapman of Great Hucklow, a noted Methodist local preacher with experience of building the simple chapel required. He was helped by local people who are recorded as carting stone from the quarry and sawing roof timbers for the "barn-like" structure. There

was a yard in front with hitching posts for horses. It took ten years to complete but in 1835 Hope Methodists were able to take final possession of the land from Jacob Darwent and to start worshipping in their own chapel.

The houses in Chapel Walk are about 200 years old. In 1851 the occupants of Chapel Cottage were Thomas Howe, a butcher, and his two sons, Jonathan and Abraham, described as assistant butchers. At home was Thomas's 15 year old daughter, Charlotte, who no doubt kept house for them. Living in one of the other cottages was John Robinson, a cordwainer or shoemaker with his wife, Elizabeth and two sons, John, aged 27 and Thomas, aged 20, also shoemakers. Their 4 year old granddaughter, Mary Platt, lived with them.

In 1847 John Holme also lived in Chapel Walk but he and his family were not there by the time of the Census. They seem to have moved in with John's father, Micah, at Smithy Cottage to help him in the blacksmith business.

Ann Price

Source:- Edwin Chapman "Hope Methodist Chapel 1835-1977"