

Stories from the Archives Hope in the 1850s

Ebenezer House and beyond

The next house on Edale Road (42 on the Tythe map) is a three part building which has had various names. It has been "The Old Bell Inn", "Ebenezer House" and older residents may remember it as a shop run by the Gillott family. In 1851 it was owned and lived in by Joseph Andrew who describes himself as a cheese factor and shopkeeper. The property had barns at the far end, with the house in the middle and the two cottages by the road may once have been stables. Whether Joseph made his own cheeses or bought them from local people and sold them on we don't know but he is not the only person to so describe himself.

Next door at what is now Ivy Cottage lived John Shallcross, an agricultural labourer, and William Marshall, a butter dealer. Their home was owned by Dinah Gould who also owned the next cottage and land surrounding it. This was Croft Cottage and Edwin Bradwell carried on his tailor's business from there. He was a widower with four sons. The youngest two were at school, the elder two were described as "at home". He employed two apprentices, Robert Bramall and Thomas Wragg, who lodged with Charity Hill and her grandson elsewhere on Edale Road.



Beyond Croft Cottage there were fields as far as Killhill, but in 1851 a building was erected to house the village hearse. The money for this was raised by public subscription and there is a plaque on the wall at the corner of Edale Road and Eccles Close to record this fact. A note amongst papers loaned to us by Jane Bramwell tells us that in 1837, when the list was compiled, the cost of the Hearse House and the hearse would be £60.0.0. Also listed are amounts collected from some of the local villages. Grindlow collected £5.3s, Offerton, £4.5s

and Little Hucklow and Windmill, £1.9s. Abney and Abney Grange gave £3.1s, Brough and Shatton £3.2s.6d and Bradwell £9.0.0. These communities all used Hope church for burials. They would certainly be glad of a wheeled vehicle to carry the coffin such distances.

Sources:/ 1847 Tythe map, 1851 Census, Hope Historical Archives.

Ann Price