

Stories from the Archives Hope in the 1850s

19. Killhill Farm and beyond

Our journey continues along Edale Road, taking in a series of farms, each of which is built sideways on to the road at the head of a parcel of land.



The first of these is Kilnhill (or Killhill) farm, one of the older buildings in the village. The name is intriguing. Was there a kiln in the area at one time? A former owner, the late Hubert Eyre, was proud of the fact that the property had belonged for many generations to his relations, the Wilcockson family from Hope Woodlands. In

the 1850s the farm belonged to Joseph Wilcockson and consisted of forty five acres divided into five fields. The tenant farmer was Levi Hadfield who lived there with his 60 year old mother, Mary and his 14 year old nephew, Henry who was an errand boy.

Beyond Kilnhill it becomes very difficult to work out occupancy. The land around Weir Cottage appears to have been owned by Micah Hall, but there is nothing to show that he lived there. Upper Weir Cottage and Mill Farm give a similar confusing picture. Some of the land was owned by Robert Howe Ashton of Losehill Hall.

It is not until we come to “Greenwood” that we can more certainly identify the occupants. They were the Waterhouses. Jabez Waterhouse describes himself as an agricultural labourer, but according to the tithe allotment he owned the property and land surrounding it. He lived there with his wife Emma and two small daughters and the census return shows that the family had a house servant, 14 year old Mary Grafton, who is described as a daughter in law, which seems strange. Also living here were two lodgers. James Greaves was a retired mercantile clerk aged 60. Walker Hardy was 26 at the time of the census and describes himself as a tea dealer and draper.

What is now Chapman Farm was owned by James Brown. The building was divided into two dwellings. In one of these lived Sarah Brown, a dressmaker. The other was the home of widowed Hannah Watson who describes herself as a farmer of 3 acres. Her eldest son, John, was a butcher and there were four other children. Two of the boys were at school. The eldest daughter and the youngest son were “at home”.

Sources: Tythe Allotment 1847, Census Return 1851 Photo by David Price for HHS.

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