

Hope in the 1850s

20. Around the Cheshire Cheese

The occupant of Rose Cottage, George Pearson, was a factory bookkeeper, which was unusual amongst the farmers, agricultural workers and tradespeople of the rest of the village. He rented the cottage from Richard Burgon and lived there with his wife Martha, daughter Charlotte and son Benjamin. There was also a lodger, 23 year old Mary Ann Hadfield who had private means.

Next door is the Cheshire Cheese Inn which has been a pub for many years and was said to cater for the pack horse trains carrying salt from Cheshire. The landlord was Robert Cotterill, a widower with three daughters, Sarah, Ann and Elizabeth, all at school. To help him run the pub, shop and farm, his daughter-in-law, Mary Burdekin, acted as housekeeper and waiter with Maria Marshall helping her in the house. Joseph Pollard worked on the farm.



The old photograph shows the pub in 1877 after it has had a new frontage. The cut-off suggests that the remainder of the building formed a second dwelling.

It is thought that what is known as “Toll Cottage” across the road and the adjoining barn were also part of the Cheshire Cheese. The Toll house served as a dining room to the pub at one time and the barns would have been stabling for the pack horses.

The present owners of Greaves cottage have done a lot of research into the history of their house. Until as recently as 1965 their home was two cottages, possibly 17th century in date. The smaller cottage was one up and one down, and may originally have been a barn. The larger had four rooms and a larder and two fireplaces, one with a range. An interesting feature of the larder was a stone trough in which brooms were “pickled”. The story is that these were later sold at Barnsley market. In the 1850s George Hall owned the building and the surrounding fields and we think that one of the cottages was occupied by George Ashton, a young agricultural labourer, with his wife, Catherine, and baby daughter, Harriet.

Sources: “A History of Greaves Cottage” By John & Aileen Booth. 1847 Tythe Allotment & 1851 Census returns.

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