

Stories from the Archives. Hope in the 1850s.

21. Continuing up Edale Road

Next to Greaves Cottage is a building with an old date stone from the 1600s. We have been unable to work out whose home this was in the 1850s, or even whether it was a dwelling at all. It may have been one of two barns adjoining Greaves cottage. It would be interesting to know whether anyone has any further information.

However we do know that the next house, Bower Cottage, was owned by Micah Burdekin at this time and that it was lived in by James Burdekin, an agricultural labourer and his wife Mary. Their 17 year old son, Josiah, was also an agricultural labourer. Their three daughters, Martha, 11, Louise, 7 and Elizabeth, 5 are described as “at home”. Maybe the wages of a farm labourer did not rise to school fees, particularly for daughters.



Beyond Bower Cottage is Bleak House, which faces the road, unlike other properties along Edale Road. It is thought to have been built in the early 1800s by Betty Ward whose family owned the land around what is now called Mead Far. It takes advantage of the natural slope of the land to give views across the valley.

In 1837 Sarah Ward at Mead Farm was appointed guardian to George Samuel

Ward from Bleak House when his father, George Ward, died.

By 1851 George Samuel was farming 11 acres on his own account at Bleak House. He was helped by his brother Charles Ward, who also lived there with his wife, Caroline and their two small children.

At aged 68 Sarah was still running the 15 acre Mead Farm though it was not called that until much later. She was helped by her son, Henry, and employed a live-in servant, Hannah Woodrooffe, aged 16.

Sources: 1847 Tythe Allotment, 1851 Census Return. Booklets “Bleak House” and “Mead Farm” by Margaret Hawson for Hope Historical Society Archive. Photo of Bleak House from Jayne Fox. (HHS Photo Archive)

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