

Hope in the 1850s

6. The Three Horseshoes

Continuity in the use of a site is always interesting. Where Stuart Reid's garage now stands, in 1851 Thomas Rowland and his two eldest sons, George and Ellis traded as blacksmiths, keeping the transport of their day in good repair. Thomas was also a farmer with 25 acres and he was helped to work this by his brother, Ralph. Their land consisted of the croft which ran alongside Castleton Road as far as the stream under the road, three fields off Aston Lane rented from Jacob Darwent, Hall Head off Castleton Road rented from the church wardens and the wonderfully named "Peas Bongs" (which roughly means a river embankment) rented from Millicent Greaves. This field can be accessed off Eccles Lane by the stile leading to Brough and is the large field down by the river. These fields were all scattered which must have made farming difficult, and rent would have to be found for all but the croft.

The Rowlands were a large family and like many other people of the time had a side line to help the family finances. This was a beer house, run by Thomas's two eldest daughters, Ann and Hannah and was known for many years as "The Three Horseshoes", with an appropriate sign above the door no doubt made in the smithy. It was later called "The Blacksmith's Arms". There were also two school age children at home, Sarah Ann and John.



The other two cottages which form part of the terrace belonged to Thomas and were rented out. The middle one was the home of the Pollard family. Elizabeth, the head of the family was 64. She was a charwoman and her son William was a farm labourer. Also living with her were her daughter, Grace Pollard, who was a dressmaker and Grace's three children, Elizabeth, Ann

and William, all of whom were at school. The children were all born in Manchester, so it would appear that Grace, who was unmarried, had brought her children back home to mother.

The third cottage in the group was lived in by 74 year old Margaret Ashton, who ran a small shop.

The photograph is dated later than 1850, but shows the group of buildings much as they would have appeared then.

Ann Price

Source: 1847Tythe Allotment, 1851 Census. Photo from Hope Historical Archive courtesy of Jane Bramwell