

Hope in the 1850s

9. The Old Hall.

The largest building in the centre of the village after the church was The Hall Hotel, owned at that time by Rev. Nathaniel Hubersty, but later to become part of Trusswell Breweries of Sheffield.

The Old Hall had been an inn for some considerable time. Originally it was the home of the Balguy family, who also built Aston Hall. The Balguys were an old established Hope family but according to the Lyson brothers who recorded much of Derbyshire's history, "by 1817 it was the property of John Dakin and occupied as an inn." It was John Dakin who rebuilt the front of the building, but the rear part is older, and may be of 16thC construction.

Writing for a series in the Derbyshire Times in 1922 Seth Evans describes what remains of this earlier hall. One wing of the property had been converted into cottages with entrances changed to face the Edale Road. There seems to have been a walled garden, with large stone gateposts at the entrance, the remains of which can still be seen today. The old smithy on the corner (now demolished) was once the lodge to the hall. Recently a well has been discovered which would have provided earlier residents with their water supply.

In 1851 the landlord was George Bocking, described in the census as "Innkeeper and Coach Proprietor." Those living with him at the Old Hall were Charlotte his wife, his two daughters Elizabeth and Maryanne aged twelve and ten and his father in law, Joseph Hobson aged 73, an assistant innkeeper. There were also three servants, Bridget Kelly, a house servant and two farm workers, Samuel Redfern and Thomas Boot. These last two would have helped with the horses for the coaches and worked on the land that George farmed.



The photograph shows the Old Hall in the 1890s

Ann Price

This land seems to have been part of Croft Head Farm, rented from the Earl of Newburgh. There is no census record of anyone living in the farm at this time, so maybe this is where the coach horses were stabled.

The Old Hall has had a long history of community involvement. When the Oddfellows were established in 1845 their constitution set out that they should meet "at the house of Brother George Bocking"