

HAGGS HILL OSSETT - A LOCAL HISTORY



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Foreword

Haggs Hill has been my home for almost 40 years; first living on the 1970’s Teall Court development and more recently in one of the two remaining 18th century cottages on Haggs Hill Road. The name of the district has long intrigued me and this is a study of the area and its history.

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Haggs Hill - A Local History

The area now known as Haggs Hill is situated to the south east of Ossett town centre and stands at the north eastern edge of the community once known as Ossett Low Common which derived its name from the “common lands” which were here prior to their enclosure in the early 1800’s. Nowadays Haggs Hill is much smaller than it was once described and the area extends to not much more than 20 acres. It is bounded on the east by the M1 motorway, on the west by Teall Street to the south by Roundwood Road and to the north by Queens Drive. This history concentrates on this definition but includes reference to an adjacent area just to the north which includes field names *Haggs Close* and *Burton Hagg* and is bounded by *Street Haggs*. Reference is also made to the nearby Roundwood, which stood at Haggs Lane End and which had a significant effect on the development of Haggs Hill.

An early reference to the area is contained in The Manor of Wakefield Court Rolls of 1337 when part of the area is known as *Strethags* and in 1407 when it goes by the name *les haggas*; an indication perhaps of the Norman influence. However the name itself probably originates even earlier and there are several schools of thought about how Haggs Hill came by its name. *Hagi* is old Norse for an enclosed field pasture and the Old English *haga* denotes a hedge, a wooded enclosure, a coppice or copse, the shelving margin of a stream. The Old English form *haga* also translates as Haw (Hawthorn). Those who know the area will recognise the description for even today the undeveloped areas of Haggs Hill contain thick copses, including hawthorn, alongside a stream once known as Lights Beck.

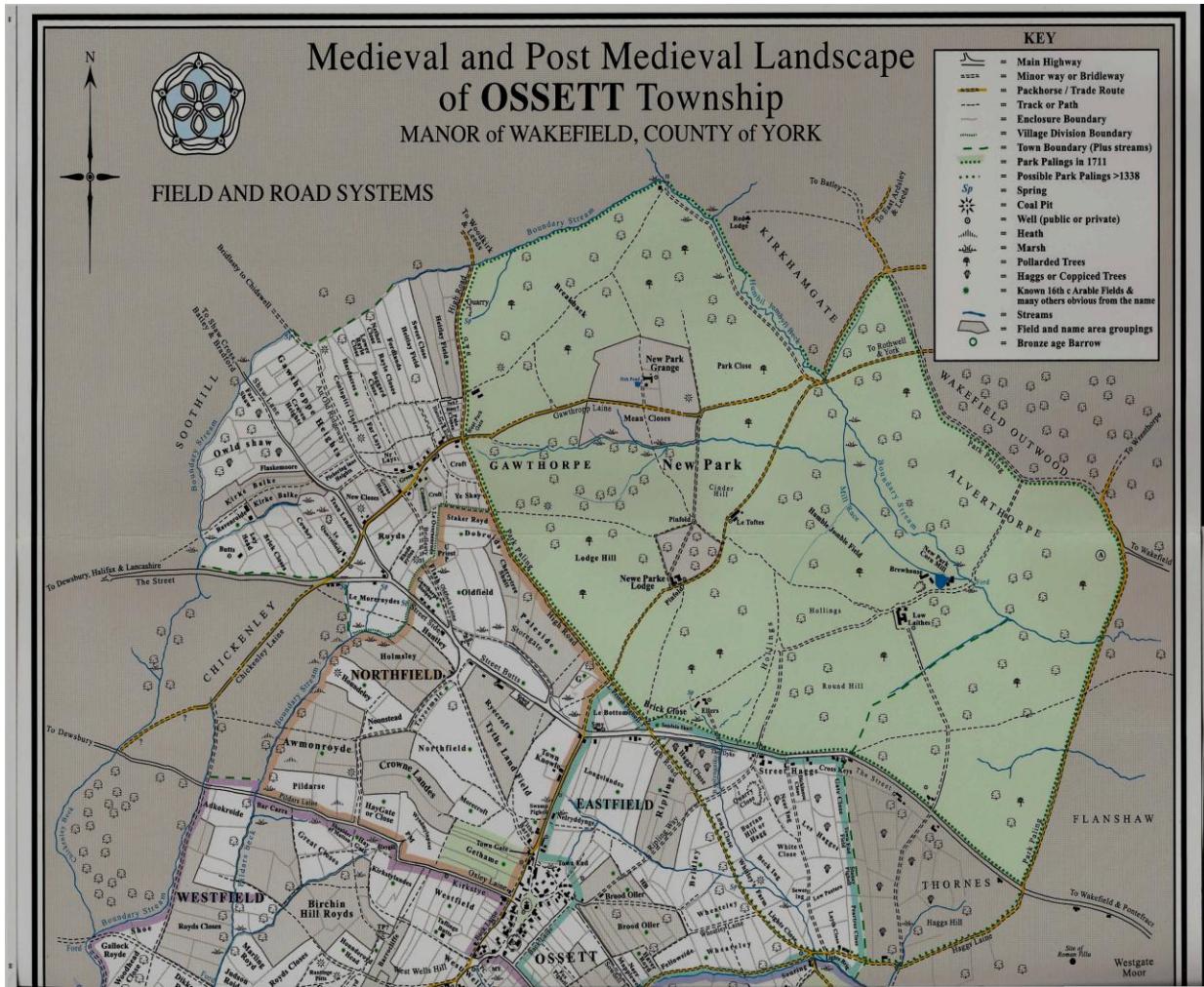
There are other local areas known as “Haggs”, including at Mirfield and Emley, but the Ossett Haggs appears on maps dating back to 1813 when *Haggs Farm* is referred to in the Ossett Inclosure Order of that year. *Street Haggs* was an 18th Century description of part of the Ossett Street section of the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road (north of Spring Mill). Over the years “Haggs” addresses have also appeared in censuses covering Roundwood in the east, Cross Keys in the north, Teal Town Road (now Teall Street) in the east and Raynor Road (now Roundwood Road) in the south. Until about 1900 the Alverthorpe with Thornes Township boundary ran north to south through the land which now forms a part of Haggs Hill Farm.

The existence of these early references points to Haggs Hill at one time having one foot in Alverthorpe with Thornes and the other in Ossett. More particularly it reveals that the area known as Haggs covered a significantly larger area than it does today. The development and expansion of Roundwood Colliery (where The Holiday Inn now stands) and more particularly the construction of the M1 Motorway in the late 1960’s had much to do with a re-definition of the area. The M1 development in particular was significant in this regard as it cut directly across the north east to south west line of Haggs Hill Road and Haggs Lane and put an end to an ancient route from Ossett town to Wakefield via the Wakefield Road at The Malt Shovel.

This ancient route – Haggs Lane or Haggs Hill Road - has existed for at least 200 years and, probably much longer. Branching westwards from The Malt Shovel on the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road, towards Ossett, the route still crosses Spring Beck (Lights Beck) at Lights Bridge at the eastern end of Teall Court where it joins Haggs Hill Road. This provided the shortest route from Wakefield through Ossett Low Common to Ossett Town. Some local historians (1) believe that Lights Bridge was also an important crossing point for the north to south “High Road” which ran through Horbury and on to Leeds in the north. It is also thought that Haggs Hill Road ran along part of the south west boundary of the Lord of The Manor Wakefield’s New Park until the size of The Park was reduced in the early 18th Century (1)

Grazing rights in the New Park had existed from the 14th Century or before. In 1325 with the population growing to 400 or more in the township, and following a succession of poor weather, good land was becoming scarce. Five Gawthorpe families were given grazing rights for eighteen oxen for their four and a half ploughs and nine horses “for they have no pasture for their beasts except in the Park”. In 1337 this right was made permanent by decree of the Lord of The Manor for sixteen oxen for their ploughs and four horses for their carts.

*In 1337 the steward (the Lord’s personal deputy) of the Manor was granted one carucate of waste land at **Strethags** in the New Park at a rent of 40s per year.....In 1590 Sir George Savile of Thornhill had an allowance of land in the New Park worth 13s 4d which must have been a considerable acreage and included Humble Jumble field. It was obvious by the end of the 16th Century the park was gradually being tenanted heralding its future demise. However by the end of the century there were still over 300 deer and 820 trees worth between 3 and 5 shillings each in the New Park.*



The above map is taken from Richard Glover's book "Medieval and Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township" (2008). At bottom right it shows Haggs Hill in Thornes with Haggs Lane to the south traversing Lights Brig and along the High Road to Woodkirk and Leeds. The Key suggests the possibility that the New Park boundary (park palings) pre 1711 may have been the line of Haggs Lane.

All this points to the significance of the area in earlier times standing on important east to west and north to south trade routes. Not surprisingly therefore the housing that did exist in the area was built along these routes on *Street Haggs*, *Haggs Lane* and to the east on *Teal Town Road* (which derived its name from the many families named Teal(ie) who lived there in the 19th century). Indeed until the mid 1960's the few remaining dwellings which there were on Haggs Hill were located along Haggs Lane/Haggs Hill Road and there is evidence of dwellings along this route from much earlier times.

Source

(1) Richard Glover Medieval and Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township 2008)

Haggs Hill Farm

Over the years much of the land comprising Haggs Hill has been farmland and so the history is dominated by that associated with Haggs Hill Farm, or Haggs Farm as it was once known.

In his Will, Robert Haigh (1696-1768), left his daughter Ann a moiety (half share) of *all that Farm or Estate commonly called Street Haggs late in my possession but now in the occupation or possession of my son in law John Raynor*. Robert Haigh is described as a *Tanner of Street Haggs* and elsewhere as being of *Haggs and Ossett Lights* suggesting that his land ownerships covered much of the area now known as Haggs Hill. The 1723 Wakefield Census (Thorns, Snapethorp) records Robert Haigh with “no. in family” as five including three communicants. At that time most of the Farm, and certainly the Farmstead was located in Thorn(e)s.

The 1774 Valuation Survey of Ossett & Gawthorpe records two fields, Pear Tree Close and Stoney Pighill in the ownership of John Raynor. These fields formed the part of Haggs Farm located in Ossett; the remainder being located just over the Alverthorpe with Thornes boundary. Further evidence of occupation is found in The Ossett Inclosure Order of 1813 which shows *Haggs Farm* as “*now or lately belonging to Robert Raynor...*” and a plan in the Order shows Haggs Farm in the position now occupied by Haggs Hill Farm.

Robert Haigh may have come by Haggs Farm by inheritance from his parents. He was the son of James Haigh and Barbara Leeke of Horbury. James was the long serving Minister at Horbury St Peter’s Church and Barbara was of the very well connected Leeke family once of Horbury Hall. In the 1709 Manor Book both James Haigh and Thomas Leeke are recorded as freeholders of land in Horbury. The Leeke family were related to the Grice and Savile families. In 1571 a Commission was appointed by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to determine who was responsible for the repair of Wakefield Dam. Henry Grice of Sandal was one of those Commissioners and his work, with two other Commissioner colleagues, was to “*thoroughly view and peruse the court rolls remaining at the Queen’s Castle at Sandal*”. Plainly Henry Grice was in a position of some influence.

At the Great Court Leet of The Manor of Wakefield held on 2nd October 1573 Henry Grice was elected Grave of Stanley. In 1591 Henry’s widowed daughter Elizabeth married George Savile, a widower and the grandson of Thomas Savile of *Lupset*, a member of the great family which had been settled at Thornhill for many years. In 1569 the Queen had called for subscriptions to repel an intended rising of Catholic Lords in the north. Amongst others, Henry Grice of Wakefield was ordered to provide a corselet, a pike, a harquebus with a bow and a sheaf of arrows.

The following reference is taken from the Wakefield Court Roll of 1608... “*Grice Hen, for a mess & certain lands called **Street Haggs** being copyhold for which he pays rent to Bailiff of Fee of Wakefield (not to grave of Horbury) 17s 10d*”

In the latter half of the 16th Century, the daughter of Thomas Grice, Ann Grice of Sandal, had married Ralph Blacker of Blacker Hall and two of their children were to marry into the Leake and Thornes families. Robert Haigh’s mother was Barbara Leeke and of course the Thornes family have long land owning connections in the vicinity of Haggs Hill farm. Also, interestingly, the great grand-daughter of Ralph Blacker, Elizabeth, was to marry Henry Reyner who went on to rent Blacker Hall and of course the Raynor family occupied Haggs Hill in the second half of the 18th Century. Later there is reference to ownership of the farm by the Wheatley family who were related to the Haighs and in the 1843 Tithe Award Timothy Wheatley is described as a devisee of the estate of Joseph Thornes.

There is sufficient information in these references to suggest that by the 16th Century Haggs Hill was owned by the Saville family and that it may have passed down through the Grice and Blacker families to the Haighs and the Raynors. Other references, above, to Thornes, Lupset and Horbury reinforce the possibility that the Grice family once owned the land.. Neither were the Savilles strangers to

landholdings in Ossett. The Saville branch that married into the Cardigan family had holdings on Ossett Common and in the New Park and as indicated above some local historians (1) believe that the Hags Hill area may well have been a part of the Lord of the Manor's hunting park – New Park - before the 18th century.

In any event it is probable that Robert Haigh and his wife Sarah Wilson lived on Hags Hill in the first half of the 18th century and that they were followed by their daughter, Ann, and her husband John Raynor. The 1795 Poor Law record shows the first entry as “Mr Rayner” and other names in the book adjacent to Rayner suggest that the record may begin at the Ossett boundary with Alverthorpe With Thornes. By 1813 the Ossett Inclosure Order records Robert Raynor in occupation of Hags Farm. By 1844 the ownership of Hags Farm had changed again and on 24 April 1844 the Leeds Mercury carried the following Notice for the sale of lands in the possession of the Trustees of the Estate of Timothy Wheatley of Hopton.

In the Ossett Tithes Award 1843 Timothy Wheatley is recorded as a devisee of Joseph Thornes Execs in relation to 5 acres 0 roods 37 perches of land with the field names Pear Tree Close and Stoney Pighill. These fields were the part of Hags Hill Farm which was, at that time, in Ossett. The remainder of the Farm was in Thornes and it was only in 1900 that the whole of the Farm came to be in Ossett.

ESTATES FOR SALE.—MIRFIELD, THORNHILL, HOPTON, OSSETT, and ALVERTHORPE-CUM-THORNES.
 By Mr. JOHN BECKET, at the ROYAL HOTEL, DEWSBURY, on Wednesday, the Twenty-fourth of April instant, precisely at Six o'Clock in the Evening, in the following or such other Lots as shall be agreed upon, and subject to the Conditions to be then produced:

THE valuable FREEHOLD and COPYHOLD ESTATES, COLLIERIES, and other Properties, of Timothy Wheatley, Esq., late of Thornhill Lees, deceased.

IN MIRFIELD.
 Lot 1. All that FREEHOLD ESTATE, situate at or near Mirfield Town Gate, consisting of all that MESSUAGE or Dwelling House, together with the Barn, Shops, and other Outbuildings. And also all those Two Cottages and Garden near thereto. And also all those Closes of Land adjoining the same, called the Laith Croft, the Pichill or Pighill, and the Backside Close, containing altogether, 5A. 3R. 9P. (more or less) occupied by James Ellis, Widow Dennis, Charles Wilson, C. & J. Eastwood, and Edward Jessop.
 Lot 2. All those FIVE COTTAGES, situate at the Knowl, in Mirfield aforesaid, now or late occupied by Widow Gibson, Joseph Heptonstall, and Others.

THORNHILL.
 Lot 3. All that Freehold CLOSE of LAND, at Thornhill Lees, containing 4A. 0R. 34P. more or less, occupied by Mr. W. Knowles.

HOPTON.
 Lot 4. One undivided EIGHTH PART of and in all that Woolen, Scribbling, and Carding MILL, Engines, Fixtures, Outbuildings, and Land belonging to the same, and occupied by Messrs. Wheatley & Sons.

OSSETT AND ALVERTHORPE-CUM-THORNES.
 Lot 5. The ENTIRETY, or, at the option of the Purchaser, a MOIETY of all that Copyhold ESTATE, situate at Hagg's Hill, on the Boundaries of the said Townships of Ossett and Alverthorpe-cum-Thornes, consisting of the Homestead, with the Barn, Stables, Garden, and Appurtenances, and also the following Closes of Land adjoining thereto:—

	A.	R.	P.
The Allotment.....	2	1	4
Upper and Lower Ing.....	9	0	25
Low Pear-Tree Close.....	2	0	0
Middle Pear-Tree Close.....	2	0	0
Top Pear-Tree Close.....	2	2	0
Total.....	17	3	29

(more or less) all in the Occupation of Charles Wheatley, Esq., and the Trustees under the Will of the said Timothy Wheatley, deceased.

And also all those TEN COTTAGES or Dwelling Houses, at Hagg's Hill aforesaid, now or late in the several Tenures of Thomas Grace, William Hetherington, George Oakes, and Others.

And also all that the ESTATE and INTEREST of and in the several Beds of Coal, of all that valuable WORKING COLLIERY, at Hagg's Hill aforesaid; and also in the Engine, Engine-House, Shops, Implements, Machinery, and all other the Effects connected with the said Colliery, as now used by the said C. Wheatley, Esq., and the said Trustees.

And also all that the TENANT RIGHT and INTEREST of and in all that the FARM and other LANDS, containing about 56 Acres, used and occupied along with, and for the Purposes of the said Colliery.

Hagg's Hill Colliery is in a populous Manufacturing District, within 2½ Miles of Wakefield, and adjoining to it are other Beds of Coal, on Sale, which may be conveniently worked with the present Shafts.

Mr. THOMAS GRACE, or Mr. JAMES WOODWARD, of Hagg's Hill aforesaid, will show the Colliery and other Estates there; the Tenants of the other Lots will show the Premises in their respective Occupations; and as to the Leases of the Colliery and Farm, for Inspection of a Plan of the Coal Beds and Workings of the said Colliery, or for any further Particulars, Application may be made to Mr. HENRY HOLT, Land Surveyor; or Messrs. CARR, NETTLETON, and TERRY, Solicitors, Wakefield.

*** A considerable Portion of the Purchase Money may remain upon Security of any of the Lots, if required.
 Wakefield, April 4, 1844.

Timothy Wheatley (1776-1829) was a merchant and one of six children, all boys, from Hopton. He was to become the father of five children, all girls, two of whom pre-deceased him. Following his death at Thornhill Lees, perhaps at Lees Hall which was previously occupied by his grandfather, on 27th May 1829 his estate was managed by his executors and trustees until 1844 when his land and property were sold to realise value for distribution to his beneficiaries.

The Colliery mentioned in the Auction Notice could be Roundwood (which stood at Hags Lane End) or, perhaps more likely, Wheatley's Colliery shown below in the 1850 map. It is known that Charles Wheatley owned the Farm by 1847(Thornes Tithe Award) and it is likely he bought the Farm and the colliery from Timothy's estate. The 1850 map shows Hags Hill House as a substantial, perhaps a grand, house but it is not known if Timothy, or any other of the Wheatleys, ever lived there.



Hags Hill in 1850

The Ordnance Survey map of 1850 shows Hags Hill House in the south, the Wakefield & Halifax Turnpike Road and Upper Street in the north, Lights Bridge in the west and the Malt Shovel Public House in the east. This is Hags Hill as it was known in earlier times. Hags Lane runs east to west from Lights Bridge to the Malt Shovel. The Wakefield boundary line is shown running north/south adjacent to Hags Hill House with Hags Farm to the east of the boundary and to the west is a second farm between Hags Hill House and Lights Bridge. Approximately 100 years later this farm, on the north side of Hags Lane, was to be known as Queens Drive Dairy Farm. The 1850 configuration of buildings at Hags Hill House is almost identical to that shown more than 100 years later in 1955.

In the north east corner of the map the New Park is shown to the north of the Turnpike Road and it is believed by some that before 1700 the Park boundary was Hags Lane. Other features of the 1850 Hags Hill landscape include industrial activity in the shape of collieries, engines and a brewery and brick works at Roundwood at Hags Lane End. Dwellings existed at places along Hags Lane and on Low Common to the west. It is also fairly clear from the 1850 map that the house which then stood where Hags Hill Farm is today was one of some significance. It is described in the map as “Hags Hill House”. This is not the late 19th/early 20th Century house which stands there today though the remains of the adjacent barn do appear to have 18th Century origins.

To the east of Hags Hill House situated on Hags Lane, is a *Black Engine* which is most probably a steam powered pumping mechanism used to pump water from mine workings. (The later 1890 map shows a *shaft* in this position – in today’s landscape this would be situated at the foot of the M1 embankment)

The 1847 Thornes Tithe Award records Charles Wheatley as the owner and occupier of the Farm holding. Charles Wheatley (1785-1849), was Timothy’s brother, and it would be him, or Charles’ son, also Charles (1813-1900) who purchased the farm, land and colliery from Timothy’s estate. Either way Charles Wheatley junior, of Sands House in Hopton Mirfield was the owner of the farm holding at the time of his death in 1900. Charles was a bachelor and, apart from several legacies and charitable distributions he left the remainder of his £500,000 (approximately £30m in current values) estate to his great niece Eleanor Steele. It appears likely that it was around this time that Hags Hill House was demolished and a newer, less substantial house was built. This is the house which stands there in 2010.

Between 1871 and 1901 Charles Wheatley let the Farm first to Robert Renshaw and later to his son John. Eleanor Steele continued to let the farm to tenant farmers and between 1901 and 1919 it was occupied by James Green and his wife Dinah, itinerant farmers and parents of seventeen children including three named Farewell, Harvest and Theresa Green. Following Eleanor Steele’s death in



1910 her estate was inherited by her children and much later in 1929 Hags Hill Farm was sold by Eleanor’s son, Adam Rivers Steele, to David Jesse Batley. By this time the farm holding had been divided by the 1920’s built Queens Drive.

David Jesse Batley II was born in Saltaire in 1873. His father, also called David Jesse Batley I, worked for Titus Salt before becoming a confectioner at Boothroyd in Dewsbury. He later bought a small piece of land at the junction of Teal Town Road and Manor Road and by 1891 David Jesse Batley II was living here with his widowed mother, working the land, whilst also working at Roundwood Colliery as a coal hewer. In the 1920’s he moved to Hags Hill Farm before buying it in 1929.

Opposite; David Jesse Batley(III) at Hags Hill Farm with Roundwood Colliery behind. Probably about 1930.

Having bought the Farm in 1929 David Jesse Batley II set about making it work but by 1945 the Farm had become too much for him and his son (also David Jesse Batley III named after his father and grandfather) who lived on the nearby and newly constructed Queens Drive and in 1945 the 72 year old David Jesse II sold the land and property for £2000 to John Scholey Menmuir of West Ardsley who erected a substantial greenhouse on the land.

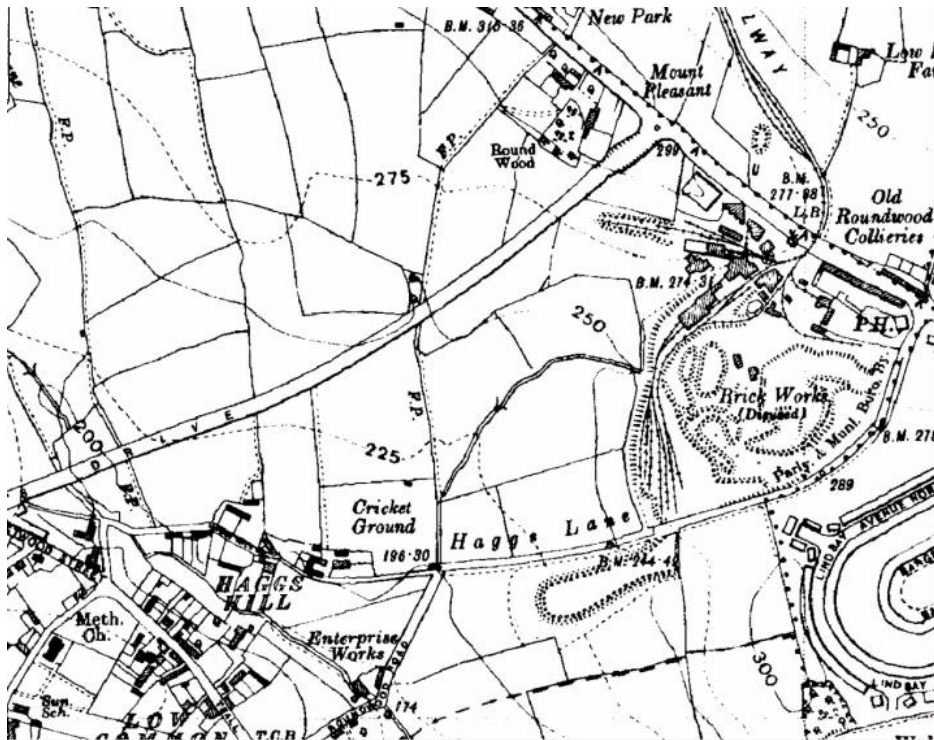


David Batley (son of David Jesse Batley III) at Hags Hill Farm with Roundwood in background

By the early 1950's Mr Menmuir had sold the Farm to in two parts. Land to the south of Hags Lane was sold to a Jack Scholefield and Millicent Collins in 1950. The remainder of Farm holding (now 16.5 acres) to the north of Hags Lane was sold to the National Coal Board (NCB) in 1954 because the NCB had become tired of compensating the Menmuir family for the damage to their crops caused by burning pit waste at the adjacent Roundwood Colliery. By all accounts it turned the Greenhouse lettuce blue.

From thereon the NCB held the freehold of the Farm and rented to tenants. For most of the next 35 years Jeffrey Gill Wilby, was farm tenant until his death at the Farm in 1990. In Summer 1992 the NCB accepted a reported offer of £108,000 for the Farm and the associated land, approximately 9 acres to the south of Queens Drive. The remaining 4.4 acres or so of the Farm to the north of Queens Drive was retained by the NCB in the hope that a planning consent might be obtained for alternative use. When this failed they sold the land in the late 1990's to a property company who currently (2010) rent the land. The remainder of Hags Hill Farm, to the south of Queens Drive remains in the hands of the owners who purchased it in 1992.

Industrial Development



Hags Hill in 1938 (Note the Cricket Field established during Mr Batley's ownership (1929-1945))

Whilst Hags Hill Farm has dominated the history of the area there are other activities which have had an important part in its past. At the eastern end of Hags Hill, at Hags Lane End, stands Roundwood and by 1850 the establishment of a Brewery, a Colliery and Brickworks provided work for many. Inevitably dwellings followed to house workers and their families and many were built along the line of Hags Lane including those within the Hags Hill Farm holding.

Little is known about Roundwood Brewery except that it was established by 1850 and it was once owned by the Ogden family who also had mining interests in the area. Much more is known about Roundwood Colliery as shown below(2).

Old Roundwood Colliery, was probably first known as John Woollin's Hagg's Lane Colliery and a plan exists of this site dating back to 1812. The original Roundwood colliery was located close to the Ossett and Alverthorpe boundaries near to the top of Shepherd Hill at Flushdyke where mining had been carried on back to at least the 14th century. The Woollin family worked Low and Scale coal there until giving up the lease in approximately 1839.

The colliery at Roundwood first established in 1847 by Terry, Dawson and Greaves was said by John Oldroyd Greaves to be "a very small affair at the top of Flushdyke Hill about one mile to the north of the later Roundwood colliery." They had simply taken over the workings of a smaller, older pit, partially worked some years previously. The older pit was most likely Woollin's pit, closed in 1839.

In 1847, Wakefield mining engineer, John Oldroyd Greaves (1824-1916), the son of Ossett coal master Abraham Greaves (1794-1842) founded the Old Roundwood colliery with two other investors in the name of Terry, Dawson and Greaves. John Greaves had been articled to John Walker, the

Wakefield based mining and civil engineer for five years in the 1840s and, for a short time after qualifying, had been manager of a colliery in Stanley owned by Robert Hudson and Co.

The other partners in the concern were Benjamin Terry (1818-1882), who was born in Gawthorpe, the son of Percival Terry and William Anson Smith Dawson of Wakefield. Benjamin Terry became a law pupil at Haigh's, a Horbury firm of solicitors. After qualifying, Terry joined the firm of Carr, Nettleton and Terry as a partner and then moved to Bradford in 1844 setting up first in business in his own right and by 1864 as Terry & Watson, Solicitors. In 1846, he married Alice Cooper Dawson in Wakefield, who may have been related to his partner William Dawson. Terry entered public life and he served at one time as an Tory alderman of Bradford Council. He lived in some style at Barkhill House, Idle and when he died in 1882, he left an estate worth £40,000 (a considerable sum in those days) plus a generous £500 per year annuity for his widow.

Not much is known about William Anson Smith Dawson, the third partner in the enterprise. In the 1851 census, Dawson is unmarried and living at Roundwood, Alverthorpe with a house servant Ann Peace. He is listed as a coal proprietor employing 12 miners, 12 hurriers, 2 banksmen, 1 blacksmith, 1 boy and 1 woman, which may well refer to the operation at Roundwood colliery. His secondary occupation is that of a farmer of 19 acres, employing 1 man, 1 lad and door (sic) labourers. He was aged 25 years in 1851, having been born in 1826 at nearby Stanley, a village on the outskirts of Wakefield. However, by May 1853, Dawson had dropped out of the business and he died in Bradford in the summer of 1854, to be replaced by Watson Scatcherd, a Morley lawyer and squire. The three partners each putting up a sum of £500. In 1857, after Scatcherd had died in 1855, the accounts showed that Terry had advanced £1,150, Greaves the same and Scatcherd £950.

Contracts.

TO CONTRACTORS.—To be LET by TENDER, the CONSTRUCTING, FORMING, and EXCAVATING of a BRANCH LINE of RAILWAY, about half a mile in length, from the new works of Messrs. Terry, Greaves, & Co., at Roundwood Colliery, to the railway now in course of construction from Wakefield to Ossett. The proprietors will find the permanent rails and sleepers which will have to be laid and fixed by the contractor.

Plans, sections, and specifications may be seen at the office of Mr. J. O. Greaves, Mining Engineer, Westgate, Wakefield, to whom tenders must be sent on *Saturday, the Eighth of June.* B 7852

Leeds Mercury 6th June 1861(above)

When Scatcherd died, the business was carried on as Terry, Greaves and Co. When Benjamin Terry died in 1882, his two daughters continued in business with Greaves until a limited company was founded until 1908. Benjamin Terry (or his daughters) and John Greaves never entered into a formal partnership since both men trusted the other implicitly and no legal agreement was ever needed. Perhaps as a result of the death of Scatcherd, the partners considered selling the colliery in 1857. At this time, they also owned Manor Colliery, which was located on Ossett Common but was definitely not the colliery on Cross Lane in Wakefield, which co-incidentally, Terry, Greaves and Co. did purchase much later.

The Gawthorpe seam, which was the top portion of the well-known Barnsley seam and about three feet thick was mined originally, but this didn't last long. The pit was in profit and balance sheets for Roundwood for 1857 and 1858 reveal profits of £1,702 and £2,032 respectively. However, if they were to continue, some serious decisions had to be made. Instead of selling up, Greaves and Terry

decided as early as 1853 to develop Roundwood significantly by sinking two new shafts, a mile to the south of the original Flushdyke pit and close to the Wakefield - Ossett boundary. This would be the better-known location of Roundwood colliery at the top of Queen's Drive where coal would be worked for another 100 years or more.

The second significant decision was to establish a railway link to Roundwood and an agreement was made in July 1860 with the Bradford, Wakefield and Leeds Railway to build a mineral railway link to the Ossett Branch so that coal could be transported from Roundwood to more distant markets. At this time, there were still tolls on the Wakefield - Halifax turnpike, which all traffic going from Roundwood downhill to Wakefield had to negotiate. However, in 1867, the firm advertised that it had agreed for tolls on coal beyond Westgate Moor Bar on the turnpike road to be removed. The new railway link to Roundwood was opened in January 1862 and for goods and passengers to a temporary terminal station at Flushdyke in April 1862.

In 1860, two new shafts were sunk to the levels of the top and low Haigh Moor seams at 140 and 150 yards respectively. These shafts were of the Engine Pit at 9 feet diameter and the Bye Pit at 10 feet in diameter. Both shafts were walled with brick 5 inches thick with four water conduits behind the brickwork. The Engine Pit was sunk five yards below the bottom of the coal to form a sump and the Bye shaft was widened to 13ft at the bottom.

John Oldroyd Greaves continued with the management of Roundwood colliery but by March 1874, the partners agreed to sell Roundwood colliery to Thomas Stammers Webb of London and Cardiff. There had been a period of prosperity in the coal industry prior to 1874, but from 1874 there was a period of continued depression. Webb agreed to take a 5-year lease on Roundwood, with power to take on a 31-year lease for £35,000, the vendors agreeing to work the colliery and pay any profits to Webb if he had first paid an initial £1,000 to them. Webb formed a new company, The Consolidated Collieries Co. Ltd. with a proposed capital of £180,000 in £10 shares. The plan was for the company to take over three collieries - the New Forest Colliery in Neath, Glamorgan and the Bush Colliery, near Cardiff were the other two. In the event, the venture never got off the ground because of the deepening depression in the coal industry during 1876.

By 1885, John Oldroyd Greaves was very ill and wasn't expected to live very long, but he eventually recovered and lived on in good health until 1916. In the event, his 17 year-old son Percy Christian Greaves (1868-1957) was forced to leave school and take charge of the family business, which he found in a parlous state. Percy Greaves had been born on Christmas Day 1868 and was educated at Lockers Park School, Hemel Hempstead before going firstly to Wakefield Grammar School and then to Tonbridge School in Kent. Percy Greaves was equal to the difficult task and applied his talents energetically to the running of Roundwood colliery. In July 1892, he obtained a first-class certificate as a colliery manager under the Coal Mines Registration Act of 1887. At the time he was living at 69, Westgate, Wakefield with his parents.

In 1889, Percy Greaves was responsible for the sinking of the new upcast shaft to a depth of 200 yards to the Silkstone seam. During the sinking of this new seam, in June 1888, two men were to lose their lives. The '*Ossett Observer*' dated June 23rd 1888 gives the following account:

"On Wednesday last a shocking fatality occurred at Roundwood Colliery, Wakefield Road on the boundary of Ossett. At present the Haigh Moor seam of coal is being worked, at a depth of 160 yards from the surface; but the proprietors of the colliery, Messrs. Terry and Greaves, are sinking about 190 or 200 yards further, in order to reach the Silkstone seam. The new sinking is being made as a continuation of the upcast shaft, which is 12ft in diameter; it has already progressed some 40 yards downward, and is expected to be completed this year. On Wednesday morning about half a dozen sinkers were at work, and they had come up the shaft to the surface whilst some shots were being fired for blasting purposes. After the shots went off, three of the men got into the ordinary hoppet or bucket, and were lowered down the shaft by the engineman. In descending they had to pass the mouth of a ventilating furnace and there is some reason to suppose that this may have induced them to change their position in the hoppet. This would possibly cause some additional oscillation of the hoppet,

which almost immediately struck the corner of the arch in the Haigh Moor seam. All three men were thrown out, but one of them, named Patrick O'Brien, of Wakefield, managed to clutch the edge of the hoppet. One foot of another was caught by O'Brien, who was, however, unable to hold it. Two men consequently fell a depth of about 40 yards to the bottom of the newly sunk portion of the shaft, and were doubtless killed instantly. O'Brien, however, reached the bottom in safety. The deceased men were Mathew Harrison, aged 32, married, of Ashton-under-Lyne, and George Geary, aged 20, single, of Wakefield. Harrison had only commenced working at the colliery the previous day."

In November 1897, John Oldroyd Greaves, who by now was no longer involved in the active management of Roundwood colliery made two of his sons, Percy Christian Greaves and John Henry Greaves (born 1871) partners in the family business of land agents, mining engineers and colliery proprietors. Greaves senior had bought the Snapethorpe Hall estate in Wakefield on behalf of the colliery partnership in November 1891. Meanwhile, Percy Greaves, despite his tender years, was able to take the running of the family business in his stride and he soon became one of the leading mining experts in northern England. Percy Greaves' obituary that appeared in the *"The Times"* newspaper on Friday, 25th October 1957 says this of him:

"comparatively few days passed when he was not to be seen at the pit-head or down the shaft of one of his own collieries or one of those of the many people who readily consulted him as, perhaps, the best known mining engineer in the north. His pride in his own pits was unbounded. He knew the men and their problems personally. He was at the forefront in the introduction of new methods, making for safety and efficiency, and it was his proud boast, evoking the sincere admiration of his many friends that, from 1886 until the nationalization of the mines (1947), none of the groups of collieries under his control had ever suffered a single strike apart from the national strikes, which affected the whole country."

By 1896, the manager of Roundwood was Mr. F. Flint, and the under-manager was Mr. H. Farrant. There were 619 underground workers and 129 surface workers. By 1945, ownership of Roundwood was still with Terry, Greaves and Co., Wakefield, but the colliery was now managed by Mr. H. H. Burton with two under-managers. Mr. H. Newell and Mr. J. Morley. There were now 521 underground workers and 120 surface workers.



Above: Picture of Old Roundwood Colliery from the early 1900s. The building on the right-hand side of the picture is a brickworks. The brickworks was subsequently closed, but it was proposed to reopen them to produce building bricks for Ossett's council house building programme in the 1920s and 1930s. In the event, this never happened and bricks were sourced elsewhere.

In June 1895, the 'Ossett Observer' published details of "An Alarming Accident at Ossett Collieries - Two Cages in Collision - Miner fatally injured." The account, reproduced below gives a good insight into the working conditions at Old Roundwood:

"On Thursday morning, an accident of a serious and unusual nature occurred at the Ossett Roundwood Collieries (Messrs. Terry, Greaves and Co.) There are three seams of coal, worked by means of three separate shafts. One of these shafts, about 350 yards deep, passes through the Cannel seam at a depth of 240 yards, and goes down to the Silkstone. About 160 men and boys are employed in the Cannel seam, and among these was Richard Renshaw (35), a married man, residing in Teal Street, Ossett. Renshaw was a hanger-on in the Silkstone seam, and about quarter past six o'clock in the morning, he was ascending in one of the cages, a two-decker, to the Silkstone "landing". The cages are guided by "thimbles" working on wire conductors of 1.5 inches in diameter. Through some unexplained cause, the ascending cage came into contact with the brickwork at the side of the shaft, and almost immediately afterwards collided with the descending cage. Owing to the velocity with which the cages were travelling, the collision damaged both, and gave a terrible shock to poor Renshaw, who was in the descending cage alone. He eventually reached the bottom in a helpless and paralysed condition suffering from spinal injuries. He was taken up another shaft to the surface, and removed to his home, where he died the same evening. Work in the Cannel seam had to be suspended for two days."

At the inquest, which was held at the Little Bull Inn, Teal Street, it was concluded that it had never been known for the cages to catch before, but evidently they had caught this time. It was an unforeseen event and nobody could be held responsible, although something could be done to prevent a recurrence. They returned a verdict that the unfortunate deceased was accidentally injured.

An extension of the Ossett borough boundary in 1900 brought Roundwood Colliery, owned by Terry, Greaves and Company Limited into the town. Mining ceased at this pit in April 1966.



Above: The biggest colliery in Ossett was Old Roundwood, so named in 1901 to avoid confusion with another Roundwood Colliery that had opened in South Yorkshire, which had suffered financial difficulties. Roundwood was opened in 1847 and finally closed in 1966. Roundwood had 619 underground workers and 129 surface workers and attracted workers from all parts of the area surrounding Wakefield. Many miners from the Barnsley coalfields moved to Roundwood and settled in the Ossett Spa area.

Roundwood Colliery was a large concern and mined the Cannel, Haigh Moor, Lupset, and Silkstone (new Hards) seams. It was noted in the 'Ossett Observer' dated 20th March 1948 that the following accident occurred at Old Roundwood:

"Twelve miners at Old Roundwood Colliery were injured, including two men with broken legs, when the cage taking them down to the Silkstone Seam for the night shift got out of control for the last 40ft of the descent and crashed into the sump boards. The engine winder had fainted at the controls in the engine house."

Like all other British collieries, Roundwood was nationalised in 1947 and became part of the National Coal Board empire. Old Roundwood colliery was finally closed in April 1966.

The following map from the 1960's shows the site of Roundwood Colliery around the time of its closure. The map demonstrates the size of the Roundwood Colliery and the adjacent spoil heaps which can be seen encroaching on Hags Lane.



Roundwood Colliery in the 1960's

The area to the west of Roundwood Colliery, including Hags Hill and Spring Mill, was often known as *The Eastfield* and, occasionally as *Coal Pit Fields* and the 1850 map of the area shows three coal pits and two collieries. One colliery is named *Mount Pleasant*, of which little is known, and the other is *Wheatley's Colliery*(2).

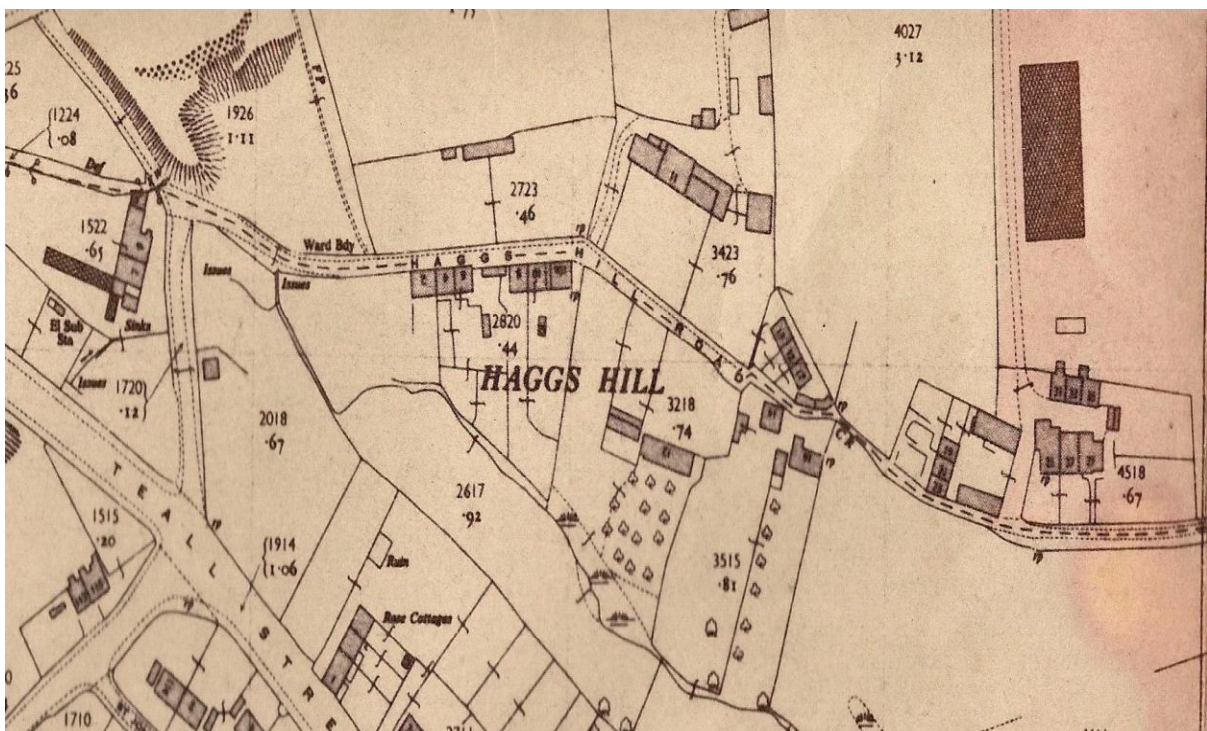
Wheatley's Colliery, Shepherd Hill, Flushdyke. In 1831, a Wakefield barrister and land speculator, Thomas Foljambe (1775-1851) purchased land at Hagg's Lane, near to Woollin's Roundwood mine, which he rented to another Wakefield man, Samuel Rhodes, for the purpose of mining for coal. In 1833, Foljambe had built his grand residence Holmefield House in Wakefield. Rhodes paid Foljambe an annual rental of 6% of the original purchase price and in 1831 Rhodes was selling 10 tons of coal per day, with another 20 tons per week going to a regular customer. Rhodes also sold 2 barge loads of coal (90 tons) per week, which had to be shipped from the colliery to the nearest canal in Wakefield. Rhodes died in early 1838 and by 1839, his widow had gone bankrupt. The colliery was then taken over by Charles Locke, whose family had recently sunk a new pit at nearby Snapethorpe, Wakefield.

The colliery was eventually bought from Timothy Wheatley's estate in 1844 by Charles Wheatley (1813-1900). Charles had been working a colliery at nearby Ossett Common (probably Lights Colliery) in 1836. Wheatley was a Mirfield colliery owner with significant land holdings in Ossett, some of which he had inherited from the Haigh family, who were also coal masters. In 1851, Wheatley had 110 men and 140 boys working in his coal mines. The Ossett colliery at Shepherd Hill was likely to be a relatively small undertaking and may even have been a day hole, which was simply a drift mine dug into the side of a hill. Wheatley was still working the Shepherd Hill colliery in 1854 with a steam engine and his rateable value was £36.

Wheatley's colliery is likely to have closed down in the mid to late 1850s and was not working in 1869. Wheatley was by then operating the Hagg Wood and Whitley Wood day holes in Dewsbury; the Bradley and Helm coal mines in Huddersfield and the Ledgard Bridge and Calder Day Holes at Mirfield. The latter mine, with an entrance on the bank of the canal close to Greenwood Lock, was driven into the hillside below Sands House, Wheatley's opulent Mirfield residence. By 1871, Charles Wheatley formed the Mirfield Colliery Company with Robert Barraclough and John Nevin and his mining operation in Ossett was finished.

Housing Development

The earliest map of the Hags Hill area was made in 1850 and shows housing development along Hags Lane. It is known that there were dwellings at Hags Lane End near Roundwood Colliery and also along the Wakefield & Halifax Turnpike Road at Shepherds Hill and Upper Street Side. On the broadest definition of the area these localities have been described as Hags or Street Hags but here reference is only made to those dwellings built within the curtilage of Hags Hill Farm and to those houses built to the west of the Farm along Hags Lane towards Low Common. An examination of the 1850 and 1955 maps reveals few differences in housing provision over 100 years.



Hags Hill Road Dwellings in 1955

In 1844, when Timothy Wheatley's Trustees were selling the Farm the Auction Notice indicated that in addition to the Farm homestead there were ten cottages or dwelling houses for sale and these were occupied by "Thomas Grace, William Hetherington, George Oakes and others". To see the precise layout of these houses at the Farm, and others on Hags Lane a map of 1955 is reproduced above. The 1850 and 1955 maps reveals few differences in housing provision over 100 years but where there were 10 cottages within the curtilage of the Farm in 1850 there are only eight in 1955. Noteworthy too is the large greenhouse built on the land in front of the Farm house.

The 1955 map records postal addresses as at that time. Reading from left to right (west to east) the first properties shown are numbers 7 and 9 Hags Hill Road. These are 18th Century cottages built in the 1780's by Joshua Haigh and occupied by the Pickard family. An earlier property probably stood here before 1780. The cottages still stand here in 2010 and their history is recorded elsewhere. Numbers 1, 3 and 5 stood to the left of 7 and 9 Hags Hill Road (where now stand two council bungalows and a 1980's house). Before their demolition between 1950/1955 the three dwellings, 18th

Century cottages, were once owned by John Dickinson (1807) and Francis (Frank) Nettleton (1918). These dwellings only had a Hags Hill Road address from 1901; prior to this their address was Low Common and later, South Parade (because Teal Street stopped where it met South Parade and was only extended to meet Queens drive in the 1920's)

Odd number postal addresses continue to the north of Hags Hill Road with number 11 (formerly Queens Drive Dairy Farm once owned by Wally Gill and later by Percy Wilby. Number 11 is now a detached house built in the early 1970's. To the east of the original number 11 was a terrace of three cottages numbered 13, 15 and 17. These stood opposite the present number 44 ("Cosy Cottage") Hags Hill Road and were demolished between 1970 and 1972..

The remaining dwellings to the east are within the curtilage of the Farm and comprise 8 of the 10 cottages included in the Sale Notice of 1844 (It seems likely that two of these were demolished or collapsed before 1871). These eight cottages comprise the following. A row of three cottages (numbers 19 [3 rooms], 21 [2 rooms] and 23), at right angles to Hags Hill Road. Further east is number 25, now Hags Hill Farm House [5 rooms], and numbers 27 [5 rooms] and 29 [4 rooms] which were attached to the eastern gable of the farmhouse. In the front of the farmhouse stood three cottages, numbers 31 [2 rooms], 33 [3 rooms] and 35 [2 rooms]. All but number 25, the house which still stands at Hags Hill Farm, were demolished between 1957 and 1966..

Dwellings with even numbers were to the south of Hags Hill Road and working right to left (east to west) the first is number 16 [which had 2 rooms and became number 46 in 1960's]. This site appears to have had a chequered history, the land being subject to a statutory declaration in 1918. This house no longer exists and in its place stands a garage in the grounds of the current number 44. Next door, to the west stands the 4 roomed number 14 ("Cosy Cottage – rebuilt in the 1970's – and now number 44). To the west of this house is number 12 also with 4 rooms (until 2007 it was number 42) once the home of Watson Hirst, which stood in $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of land and was bought by Percy Wilby in 1960 after he sold Queens Drive Dairy Farm. It is now the site of seven houses built in 2007 and known as Rushmead Court (these new houses carry the addresses of 67 and 67a Teal Court, 42 Hags Hill Road and 1-4 Rushmead Court). Further west stood a row of three cottages numbers 8 [3 rooms], 10 [3 rooms] and, oddly, 10a [28, 30 and 32 in 1960's] suggesting that numbers 8 and 10 were built earlier than 10a – which appears from the map to be detached from 8 and 10 (which shared a privy). Numbers 8 and 10 were bought and sold by Percy Wilby in the 1950's. These would be demolished between 1966 and 1970..

Slightly to the west was another terrace of three cottages numbers 2 [4 rooms], 4 and 6 [2 rooms]. These became numbers 22, 24 and 26 Hags Hill Road in the 1960's. These too would be demolished in 1971. The addresses of the houses to the south of Hags Hill Road appears to have changed in the 1960's. This was probably as a result of the construction of three pairs of bungalows at the Teal Street junction with Hags Hill Road on land allotted to Joshua Haigh in 1807 and sold by David Pickard Harrop in about 1960. The addresses of these bungalows are 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12. In the 1960's the next addresses along Hags Hill Road were 22 to 32.... then 42 to 46. When the properties were re-numbered, numbers 14 – 20 and 34 – 40 were omitted. Perhaps it was to accommodate other development proposals which never came to fruition – or perhaps the intention was some of the Teal Court houses would carry a Hags Hill Road address.

Of the houses on Hags Hill in 1850 only two have remained undiminished by subsequent development and change. These are numbers 7 and 9 Hags Hill Road known as "The Cottages" and the history of these dwellings is recorded elsewhere. Having established the location of dwellings on Hags Hill Road from 1850 onwards the following analysis identifies the people who lived here. The section records the families who lived in the ten dwellings (eight after 1861) at Hags Hill Farm and the second section looks at the families who lived elsewhere on Hags Lane.

Haggs Hill dwellings

The Auction Sale Notice of 1844 records *10 cottages* for sale in addition to the Farm homestead. After 1861 it appears that the number of dwellings has fallen to nine including the Farm House. The layout of the dwellings within the Farm holding is shown in the above 1955 map. It seems likely that the two demolished or collapsed dwellings were once attached to numbers 19,21 and 23 to make a terrace of five dwellings.

Elsewhere on Haggs Hill 13 dwellings were constructed along the line of Haggs Lane between Haggs Hill Farm in the east and Low Common in the west. 9 of these were on the south side of the Lane and only 4, including Queens Drive Dairy farm, to the north. It is not known for certain when these houses were built though it seems likely that most were here by the 1860's and they survived until the 1960's.

This suggests;

- *11 dwellings at Haggs Hill Farm (including the Farm House) Only the Farm House survives in 2010.
- * 13 dwellings to the west of the Farm. Only one survives in 2010. The remainder were demolished to make way for Teall court and the more recent Rushmead Court developments.
- * 5 dwellings with addresses 1-9 Haggs Hill Road. All these were built in the 1700's. Three were demolished and are now replaced with two Council bungalows and a 1980's detached house. Two of the original houses remain.

The census records reveal the following;

The **1841** Census records 19 dwellings;

In the 10 Haggs Hill Farm Cottages;

Thomas Grace and William Hetherington (as they were at the time of the 1844 Auction Sale) William Grace, Thomas Page, Robert Howgate, Jos Wild, John Wilcock, James Ward, Thos Butterfield, Charlotte Wilby, William Tresh and Joseph Gower. There are 13 families here suggesting some were living elsewhere on Haggs Lane. Eight of the 13 families were miners. One was a blacksmith.

To the west of the Farm only 4 dwellings appear to exist;

Aaron Brummit (Brickmaker), Joshua Wilby (Boat owner!), and Nathan Brummit are shown living on the **south side** of the road. Only David Fothergill appears to be living to the **north** of Haggs Hill Road and probably working the Dairy Farm.

In the 5 cottages 1-9 Haggs Hill Road (with a Low Common address)

Joseph Pickard, Hannah Pickard, Mark Pickard, Robert Pickard, David Teale,. All were clothiers, most probably journeymen with their families working handlooms in the upstairs rooms.

In 1851

In the Haggs Hill Farm Cottages (9)

George Oakes (Banksman), Thomas Grace (Miner), Joseph Ward (Miner), Charles Pollard (Blacksmith), James Archer (Farm Labourer), James Ward (Miner), Thomas Page (Miner), William Dougle (Miner) and Joshua Swallow (Miner). This suggests nine dwellings and seven of the families were engaged in coal mining. One was a blacksmith. Elsewhere on Haggs Hill

To the west of the Farm (5)

the census has only Aaron Brummit (Clothier), William Hetherington (Carrier) and Mary Naylor (widow) living on the south side of the Lane. I suspect they were living in the detached cottages and that the terrace of three cottages occupied in later years had not been built until after 1851. Only Charles Hetherington and George Wilson are shown living on the north side

In the (5) cottages 1-9 Haggs Hill Road (with a Low Common address)

Martha Pickard, Joseph Pickard, David Pickard, Robert Pickard, Isaac Pickard. All were weavers/spinners except Isaac who was a dealer in malt, flour etc.

In 1861

In the Haggs Hill Farm Cottages(10)

Ten families are living at the Farm cottages. William Dews (Miner)/Martha Scott (Burler), William Allsop (Agricultural Labourer), George Oakes (Book keeper), Thomas Grayson (Carter), Thomas Nightingale (Nail Manufacturer), George Alderson(Carpet Weaver),George Ramsden (Retired Miner), Harris Brown (Agricultural Labourer) and Nathan Brummit (Weaver). This suggests ten dwellings and the occupations of those living here in 1861 were significantly different to the mining presence some ten years earlier. Most of the cottages here were owned by the Wheatley family and it is probable that they were built to house miners working at Wheatley's nearby Colliery. This closed, probably in the mid 1850's and even though the nearby Roundwood Colliery was still working it seems likely that the change in the nature of the occupations of the Haggs Hill households was due to the closure of their landlord's Colliery

To the west of the Farm (7)

John Teale (Weaver) Aaron Brummit (weaver) Joshua Wilby (Retired Farmer) Amos Teale (Weaver) and William Bould (Weaver) were living on the south side and only James Durkin (Agricultural labourer) and George Wilson are shown living on the north side of Haggs Hill Road. The terrace shown on later maps on the north side of the road appears not to be shown in the 1854 map.

In the (5) cottages 1-9 Haggs Hill Road (with a Low Common address)

Mark Pickard, Joseph Pickard, Lydia Pickard, Robert Pickard, Isaac Pickard. All were weavers.

In 1871

In the Haggs Hill Farm Cottages(8);

Joseph Ramsden (Labourer), George Oakes (Coal Agent), William Allsop(Farm Labourer), Robert Pickard (Coal Miner), Thomas Crowther(Coal Miner), Edward Hudson (Coal Miner), Matthew Brummit (Clothier) and William Binns (Dyer).

To the west of the Farm (9)

Rowland Teale(locomotive Engine driver), Aaron Brummit (Weaver) James Longley(Cloth Weaver) William Oakes(Engine Driver) and Henry Green(miner) To the **north side** were Emma Child and William Healey. George Wilson and Eliza Fothergill are also shown and they were probably living at the Dairy Farm.

In the (5) cottages 1-9 Haggs Hill Road (with a Low Common address)

Benjamin Fothergill (Weaver), John Dews (Engineer), Joshua Redfearn (Flock Grinder), Isaac Pickard (Weaver), Enoch Pickard (Weaver)

In 1881

In the Hags Hill Farm Cottages(7);

Henry Dyson (Engine Wright), William Allsop(Farm Labourer), John Allsop (Carpet weaver),Walter Morton (Labourer at Iron works), George Hill Driver (Railway Plate Layer), William Renshaw (Labourer Farm), Fred Nettleton (Engine Fitter)

To the west of the Farm (12)

In 1881 the south side of Hags Hill Road shows Rowland Teall (Engine Fitter Coal), Aaron Brummit (Gardener aged 80), Henry Matthews (Miner), Maria Sykes (widow) and Ann Green. The analysis shows only five residents suggesting that one of the terraces of three cottages was built after March 1881 and before March 1891. On the **north side** were Emma Child, Abraham Crossley, Walter Lightowler, Job Child, Amos Etherington and Alice Sampson. This shows six families where the map suggests there were homes for only three. It is possible that some shown on the north side of the road were living on the south. Eliza Fothergill is also shown but she was probably living at the Dairy Farm.

In the (5) cottages 1-9 Hags Hill Road (with a South Parade address)

Unoccupied, George Hepworth (Plumber), Oliver Illingworth (Shopman), Isaac Pickard (Cow Keeper), Ellen Harrop (widow)

In 1891

In the Hags Hill Farm Cottages(7);

Occupied by Alfred Killbourn (Colliery Clerk), Wright Oakes (Blacksmith), Arthur Chappell (Coal Miner), Joseph Wilby (Coal Miner), Mary Reynolds (widow), Richard Reynolds (Coal Miner) and George Lodge (Coal Miner).

To the west of the Farm (12)

George Renshaw (miner), Owen Naylor(Rag Grinder),William Hallas (Miner), Sydney Ramsden(Miner), Joseph Ramsden(Miner), Henry Jackson (Farm Labourer), Samuel Richmond (General Labourer) and Ann Fothergill (living on own means). On the north side of Hags Hill Road lived Emma Child (widow), Charles Asquith (Banksman), John Harrison(Tailor) and George Webster (Miner). The census also shows a George Stevens who may have been living at the Dairy Farm.

In the (5) cottages 1-9 Hags Hill Road ((with a South Parade address)

Joseph Williamson in 3 roomed home (Carpet Designer),Thomas Hewitt in 2 roomed home (Wool Extractor), Hannah Dews in 4 roomed home (Widow), Isaac Pickard (Farmer), Unoccupied. Thomas and Margaret Hewitt had 8 children aged 1 year to 17 years old. The family were living in a two roomed home.

In 1901

In the Hags Hill Farm Cottages(7):

The seven Farm cottages were occupied by Alfred Kilburn (Colliery Weighman), Thomas Glover (Circular Sawyer), Isaac Hetherington (Coal Hewer), George Harrop (Coal Miner), Joseph Wilby (Colliery Labourer), Joe Stephenson (Coal Miner) and Arnold Blakely (Blacksmith).

The 1891 and 1901 Census reveals a re-emergence in the number of households once again working the local Colliery – almost certainly this would be Roundwood. There is evidence that in 1900 Frank Nettleton was renting the 7 cottages and the Farm House from Charles Wheatley who was still the owner. Francis or Frank Nettleton was the Roundwood Colliery manager, himself living at nearby Mount Pleasant (at the top of Queens Drive). Frank Nettleton would be subletting the cottages to Roundwood miners.

Plot/Property	Occupant	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
333 ^a <i>Old Hags Hill, Uxsett</i> Eight Cottages with gardens or vacant land thereto.	Frank Nettleton and others.	2	0	14
334 Close called <i>Wheatley Croft</i>	Isaac Pickard.	1	2	29
335 Ditto	ditto	-	-	-
333 ^a <i>Cottage Stable Shed &c</i>	John Renshaw	1	2	36
322 ^a <i>Close called Pump Field</i>	ditto	9	3	17
306 ^b <i>" " Nine acre Field</i>	ditto	2	0	21
311 ^b <i>" " Lower Pear Tree</i>	ditto	2	0	39
323 ^b <i>" " Middle Pear Tree Croft</i>	ditto			
319 ^b <i>" " Stony Pophill or</i>	ditto	2.	2.	6
304 ^b <i>" " Top Pear Tree</i>	ditto			

Second part

Lands Tenements hereditaments and premises which are believed and are taken to be Freehold and Copyhold Compounded for of the said Manor

undisturbed

Schedule from Charles Wheatley's Will (1900) in the Wakefield Court Rolls

To the west of the Farm (13)

In 1901 the families living on the south side of Hags Hill Road included Reuben Peace (living on his own means), Samuel Richmond (Gardener), Peter Blackburn (Coal Hewer), Joseph Kilburn (Coal Hewer), Ralph Crossland (Carpenter), Benjamin Teale (Colliery Railwayman) and Margaret Renshaw (widow). One of the cottages was empty. On the north side of Hags Hill Road lived Emma Child (widow), Charles Asquith (Banksman), John Harrison (Tailor) and George Webster (Miner). The census also shows a George Stevens who may have been living at the Dairy Farm.

In the (5) cottages 1-9 Hags Hill Road (with a Hags Hill Road address)

Friend Dews [3 rooms] (Coal Hewer), Thomas Hewitt [2 rooms] (Carter), Isaac Marsden [4 rooms] (Coal Hewer), Joseph Summerscale [3 rooms] (Miner Colliery Deputy), Isaac Pickard [4 rooms] (Market Gardener).

1911 Census

In the Haggs Hill Farm Cottages(8);

Alfred Pashley [no. 19 Haggs Hill; 3 rooms](Coal Hewer)

Joe Stephenson [no.21; 2 rooms] (Hewer)

Joshua Wilby [no. 23; 2 rooms] (Colliery Labourer)

Sarah Kilburn [no.27; 5 rooms](widow)

Lister Child [no. 29; 4 rooms] (Colliery Official)

George Harrop [no.31; 2 rooms](Hewer)

Isaac Hetherington [no.33; 3 rooms] (at Home)

Thomas Glover [no. 35; 2 rooms] (Wood Sawyer)

Worthy of note is that Joe Stephenson and his wife had 8 children, all girls, and they lived in 2 rooms. Thomas Glover and his wife had 3 surviving children from 12 born to the couple. This is 1911.

To the west of the Farm (13)

South of Haggs Hill Road;

Lewis Shires no.2. 4 rooms Jobbing gardener

Unoccupied no.4. 2 rooms

Herbert Holmes no.6 . 2 rooms Coal getter. 4 children (2 boys; 2 girls) The house has one bedroom.

Margaret Renshaw no.8. 3 rooms widow

Thomas William Dews no.10 3 rooms Hewer

Peter Marsden no.12. 4 rooms Coal hewer (of 8 children to the couple only 2 survived to 1911)

S F Richmond no.14. 4 rooms (recorded as 2 rooms in 1901) Nurseryman

Reuben Peace no.16. 2 rooms Gentleman

North of Haggs Hill Road;

Joshua Illingworth Morton no.11. 5 rooms Farmer. This is the dairy farm.

Fred Grace no.13. 2 rooms Miner Deputy

Walter Merryweather no 15. 2 rooms Hewer

Ben Garside no. 17. 2 rooms Teamer.

In the (5) cottages 1-9 Haggs Hill Road (with a Haggs Hill Road address)

Isaac Marsden [no1 Haggs Hill Road; 4 rooms] (Dealer in old iron)

Margaret Hewitt [no3; 2 rooms](widow)

Friend Dews [no5 Haggs Hill Road; 3 rooms]

James Thompson [no.7; 3 rooms](miner),

Isaac Pickard [no9; 4 rooms] (Market Gardener)

Queens Drive Dairy Farm

In addition to Hags Hill Farm a second farm stood just to the west. After Queens Drive was built in the 1920's the farm went by the name of Queens Drive Dairy Farm; the postal address was 11 Hags Hill Road. The farm was small and appears never to have exceeded about 13 acres.

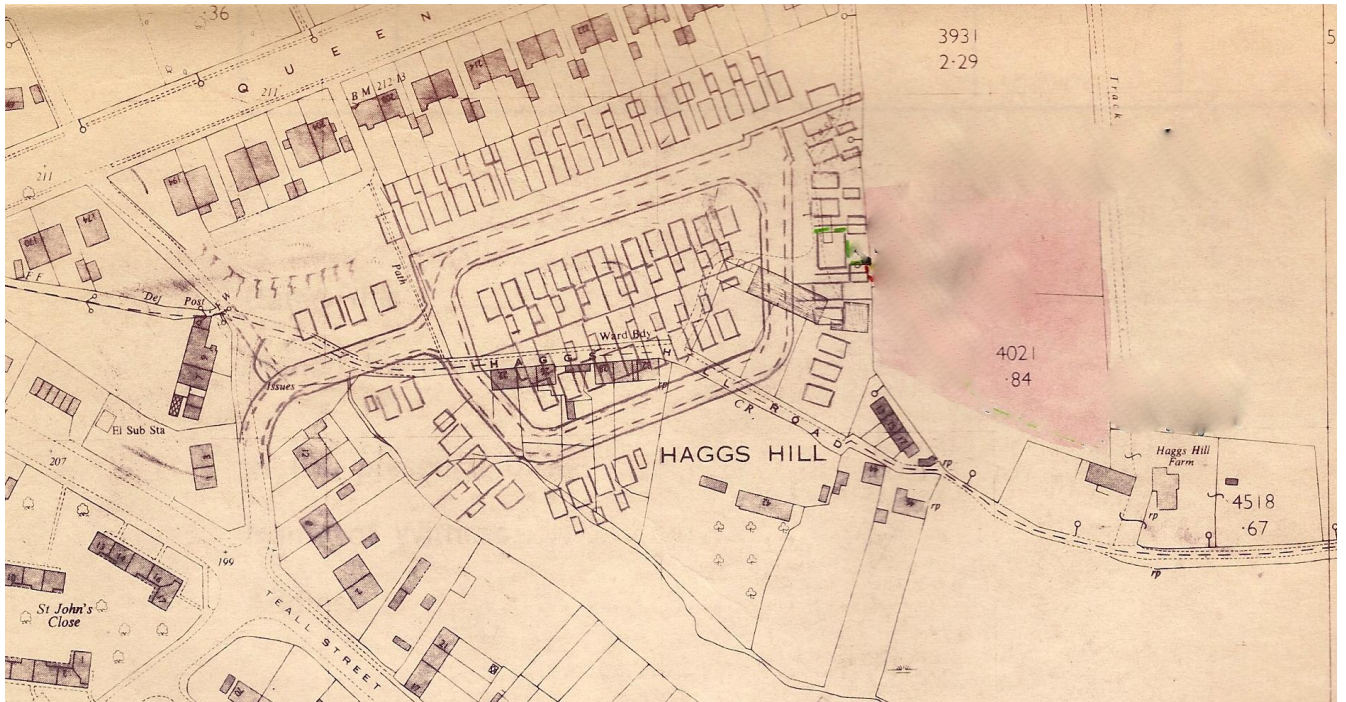
The origins of the Farm are unknown but the 1850 map shows the buildings just to the north of Hags Hill Road. In the 1843 Ossett Tithe Award the land to the north of the buildings is owned by the Governors of Wakefield Free Grammar School explaining the description in the 1813 Ossett Inclosure Order of Hags Hill Road as Governor Road. The 1843 Tithe Award records the occupier of the land (ie the tenant) as Francis Fothergill.

Tenants of the land between that time and 1920 included the Fothergill family (David, Frank, Eliza and relation George Wilson) until sometime between 1881 and 1891. George Stevens took over the tenancy from that time until sometime between 1901 and 1911 when the farm is occupied by Joshua Illingworth Morton perhaps, until 1920. Most of the tenants also had other work to supplement the earnings from the relatively small farm holding.

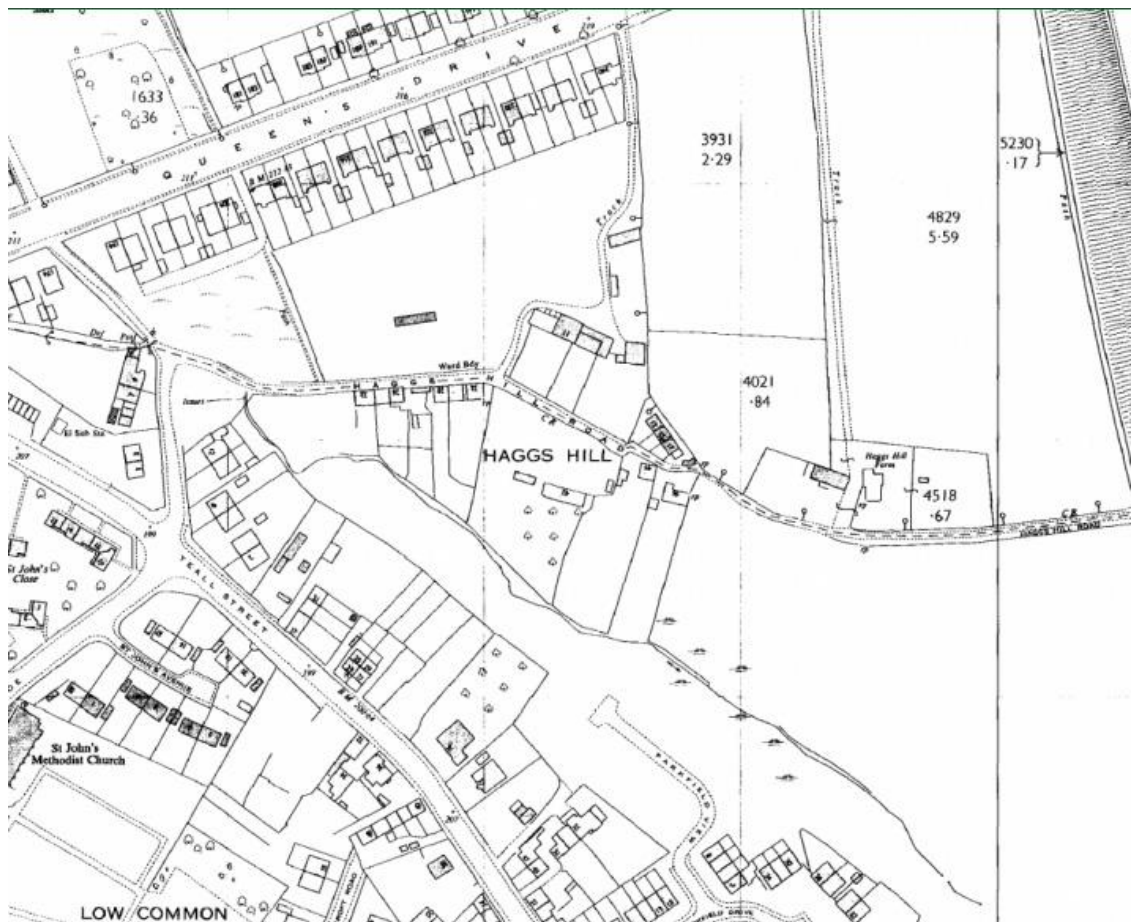
In April 1920 the Governors of Wakefield Grammar School sold the land to Jesse Birkinshaw. Within two months, on 30 June 1920, he sold the land on to William Burton Etherington and on 10 April 1924 he was to sell the holding to Walter (Wally) Gill. By 1942 Wally Gill has moved to Batley Carr and is a Grocer and Provision Merchant. Part of the landholding has been sold to Frederick Brook and Bennet Brook of Sowood Farm. The remainder, about 4 acres and including the farmhouse, outbuildings and premises was sold for £1000 to Percy Wilby in 1946. By this time Wally Gill is described in one Deed as a Dairyman of Hollies Farm Teall Street Ossett and in another as a grocer and provisions merchant of Manor Road.

Even though the farm was owned by Wally Gill it seems likely that Percy Wilby was working the land at least since 1933. In 1944 Percy buys 3 cottages (numbers 13,15 and 17) on Hags Hill Road adjacent to the Dairy Farm which he buys from Wally Gill in 1946. In 1959 he also purchases number 12 Hags Hill Road, a dwelling and approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre into which he was to retire in 1960 when he sold the Farm and the 4 acres of land to Peter Birkinshaw.

In 1971 Mr Birkinshaw sells the land and property to Tay Developments for the building of the 60 unit residential development and the Farm and the row of cottages to the east are demolished around this time. Meanwhile Percy's son, Jeffrey Gill Wilby was just about to take the lease of the nearby Hags Hill Farm. Jeff Wilby died in 1990 bringing to end 60 to 70 years of farming by Percy and Jeff Wilby on Hags Hill.



1971 – Hags Hill with Teall Court superimposed showing houses pre and post 1971.



1970 Hags Hill just prior to Teall Court development

Memories of Haggs Hill

The Batley Family of Haggs Hill Farm 1929-1945

Mention was made of three generations of David Jesse Batley and the family's ownership of Haggs Hill Farm between 1929 and 1945. The fourth generation of the Batley family was represented by David and Alan Batley both born in Ossett in the 1920's. David is sadly no longer with us but he and his brother would spend many hours at their Grandfather's Haggs Hill Farm where they would help their father and grandfather with the stock and milkround.

They recall being told that Grandad, David Jessie Batley (born 1873) was a miner working at Roundwood Pit Ossett (previously Greaves Pit) but by 1914 he also farmed some land at the junction of Manor Road and Teal Street where he also lived. This was a livestock farm and so in addition to his work at the pit (long days and early mornings) he also had to raise stock, including beef and poultry, and include regular milkings in his routine. So after early morning milkings he would walk up Teal Street to Junction Lane and take the old Haggs Road (now Roundwood Road) to Haggs Lane and on up to the Pit near the Malt Shovel Public House. Part of this road had a "buck trap" and the brothers described this as being a metalled (i.e. metal sheets) in the tracks to provide support to the weight of carts traveling along those roads and preventing the road and vehicles sinking into the mud.

Their father however had never been a well man and by 1945 or so it was becoming too much for 73 year old Grandad to run with his poorly son and so the Farm was sold. By then both David and Alan had been called up to the armed services (David was in the Royal Vet Corps and Alan in the Royal Engineers) and even though their mother had written to David to tell him about the move David never received the letter and arrived at the Farm expecting to be welcomed by Grandad only to find that they didn't live there anymore. Instead he was met by the Menmuir family who had bought the Farm from Grandad earlier that year!

The brothers recall two Cottages which were attached to the eastern elevation of the existing Haggs Hill Farm house, two cottages opposite the northern elevation and four more further along Haggs Lane towards what is now Teal Court. It was David's job of a Saturday afternoon from the mid/late 1930's to collect the rent and rates from the tenants in the eight cottages.

Around this time Queens Drive was being built and it is believed that Grandfather constructed the track or drive joining the Farm to Queens Drive. Until then there were only two accesses to the Farm from the west (i.e. Ossett direction). The first of these was by foot along Haggs Lane back towards Isaac Pickards(now 7 and 9 Haggs Hill Road to the west of the Farm) and along 'Ikey Pickard's Passage' up to Ossett on the footpath adjacent to Isaac's holding called Wheatley Crofts or Closes. In parts, and certainly alongside 9 Haggs Hill Road, the footpath had hawthorn hedging to either side but as one approached the Farm (in the area which is now Teal Court) the Lane narrowed, with dry stone walls either side, to the width of a bicycle handlebars. Alan remembers the skinned knuckles from rides along here! The only vehicular access was fairly circuitous especially if coming from the Ossett direction for this would require one having to go down Teal Street in the direction of Horbury turning east along Haggs Road (now Roundwood Road) to the point where it joined Haggs Lane then turning west back along Haggs Lane until reaching the Farm. The track joining the new Queens Drive must have saved a lot of time and effort!

The brothers tell of Nine Acre field at one time being a cricket field (close to where the motorway

now runs) and we were able to show them some video of haymaking and farm animals at the Farm. They also recall that as children in the 1930's they would deliver milk to homes in the area. But this wasn't milk delivery like we were used to but rather it was milk from the cattle kept at Haggs Hill Farm and delivered often twice a day and rather than being in bottles it would be decanted into jugs in the houses which the brother visited.

David recalled Isaac or Ikey Pickard living in one of the Cottages which still stand at the western end of Haggs Hill Road (see Ossett Houses) and recalls "Aye, but Ikey didn't like kids" It seems that this conclusion was drawn from the fact that Isaac would chase them away when they were pinching his peas and other vegetables from his market garden land behind the Cottages. This would be accessed up a public footpath, now a private drive, on land owned by Isaac, which ran adjacent to number 9 Haggs Hill Road and up towards Ossett bordering his land at the wheatleys. This footpath, which David and Alan recalled was edged with hawthorn hedges, was known as "Ikey Pickard's Passage". It was closed in the early eighties when land behind number 9 was sold for the development of a house 170a Queens Drive.

David Batley had farming and animals in his blood and his first love was horses. His final journey was in their company.

Horse-drawn hearse is David's final wish

A HORSE-drawn hearse fulfilled the final wish of former farmer David Batley.

Mr Batley, 83, died from pneumonia at his home on Birchen Avenue, Ossett, last month.

As a youngster he worked at the family farm, Haggs Hill Farm, on Haggs Hill Lane.

He would help his dad and grandfather, who were both called Jesse David, as well as delivering milk around Ossett.

But in the late 1940s they were forced to give up the farm because of illness and old age.

Mr Batley's daughter, Sarah, 48, of Flint, North Wales, said: "Dad developed an early love of horses, which was to stay with him all his life. He went to become a farmer and to show and breed horses."

During the Second World War Mr Batley served with the Fifth Field Remount of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

He was stationed at Doncaster Racecourse alongside the many jockeys in the ranks.

Later he was one of 16 soldiers who rode 32 horses to a training camp in the village of Osmaston, in Derbyshire, from Nottinghamshire Racecourse.

All the horses were being



FINAL WISH: The horse-drawn hearse.

trained for pack work before being shipped out to Burma.

The soldiers were surrounded by almost 1,000 mules and horses in the field and paddocks around their camp.

While he was in Osmaston he met Betty Holmes, daughter of the village school headteacher.

In 1950 they married and

had six children before running a farm in Mackworth, Derby, for more than 40 years.

Ms Batley said: "After the death of my mother in 1996 a chance encounter led him back in touch with Geraldine Blake.

"They had known each other during his time in Ossett. Her father ran Griffen and Sayer Bakery and Tea Rooms on

Kingsway, Ossett."

And in May 2002 the couple married at Holy Trinity Church, in Ossett.

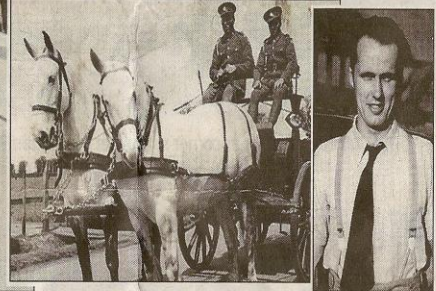
Mr Batley had suffered heart problems and Parkinson's disease, and had recently been diagnosed with cancer.

At his funeral last week, the hearse supplied by Ossett undertaker George Steele and



FORMER FARMER: David Batley, who has died at 83.

LIFETIME REMEMBERED: David Batley as a younger man and with some of the many horses he helped train.



Son carried Mr Batley's coffin from Birchen Avenue to Holy Trinity Church, and then to Dewsbury Moor crematorium for cremation.

His ashes will be partly interred at St John's Church, Dewsbury Moor, alongside those of his parents, Winifred and Jesse David Batley, and at St Martin's Church, Osmaston,

Derbyshire, alongside his first wife, Betty.

Mr Batley leaves his widow Geraldine, brother Alan, plus son Tim and five daughters - Jill, Diane, Sarah, Kathryn, and Rosie. He was a grandfather of 12, and had a great-grandson, Toby. He also leaves three stepchildren, Sally-Anne, Julian and Nick.

The Grace Family Of Hags Hill around 1900



Back row; Maria (born 1869) Richard (1872) Ann (1867) Thomas (1865)

Seated; Ralph (1884) Sarah (1875) Jane (mother nee Pickard born 1844) with Emma (1890) on her lap, Alfred (father born 1841), Mary (1877) Fred (1882)

Coal Miner Alfred Grace and his wife Jane (nee Pickard) lived on Hags Hill towards the end of the 19th Century. Alfred was born in Ossett and lived most of his life in the vicinity of Low Common. He married local girl Jane Pickard also of Low Common in 1864. Jane was the cousin of Isaac Pickard who lived at 9 Hags Hill Road. In 1841 and 1851 Thomas Grace, possibly Alfred's great uncle is living in one of the cottages at Hags Hill Farm. In 1911 Fred Grace (seated right), son of Alfred is living at 13 Hags Hill Road. There is no Census record of Richard living on Hags Hill Road and it is likely that he lived there between the 1891 Census and his service in South Africa in late 1900.

In 1901 Alfred and Jane's son Richard (back row 2nd left) died, aged 28, while serving with the St John's Ambulance Brigade in the South African (Boer) War. The record reads; *Private Richard Grace 1408 Dewsbury Corps. Died of disease 19 January 1901) He lived at Hagg's Hill, Ossett, near Wakefield.*

Soon after the onset of the South African War on 11 October 1899, it became obvious to the British authorities that the Royal Army Medical Corps would not be able to cope with the

numbers of casualties from battle and disease. A call went out for volunteers from the St John Ambulance Brigade to serve for six month tours in South Africa; these personnel would mainly be posted to base hospitals, thus freeing RAMC members for service at the front.

Volunteers came forward in large numbers and, after being equipped at the headquarters in Cripplegate, London, the first batch of 23 St John Ambulance Brigade members sailed for South Africa on 3 November 1899 aboard the HMS *Princess of Wales*.⁽⁵⁾ Thereafter groups of SJABs (or 'Johnnies' as they were known) were mobilised for South Africa, and approximately 1800 served during the period 1899-1902. About 60 of these young men died in South Africa, the majority from enteric (typhoid) fever, which they contracted from their patients. This number is imprecise, as some members lost their lives while serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps, or with other units, during second tours of duty or following discharge in South Africa.

The SJABs who served in South Africa were awarded a bronze medal which bore the uncrowned head of Edward VIII. Their service numbers, ranks, initials, names and units were engraved on the rim in large block letters. The silver Queen's South Africa Medal was also awarded with details impressed on the rim and the unit shown as 'St John Ambulance Brigade'. Both medals were awarded posthumously and a few examples, which were awarded to casualties, have appeared in medal dealers' catalogues during the last decade.

(<http://www.samilitaryhistory.org/vol1105de.html>)