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A HISTORY OF OSSETT SPA



by Alan Howe

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Acknowledgements

This history of Ossett Spa began as a short history of Spa Mill which once stood on Spa Lane. I had long hoped to research the history of Whinfield Terrace and the Spa Baths and the combination of these three topics inevitably led to this more detailed study of the area known as Ossett Spa.

The research was undertaken in mid 2010 and was based largely upon an examination of Census, Birth Marriage and Death records, Newspaper Archives, other written material relating to Ossett Spa and Memorials of Deeds maintained by the excellent West Yorkshire Archives Service (WYAS).

I am much indebted to the WYAS staff for their assistance and patience, to Mr John Goodchild for permission to reproduce his History of Emmerson Mill, to Mr Brian Smith for his *Ossett Pubs* research of The Fleece and The Spa Inn and to Richard Glover for his splendid book *Medieval and Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township*. My gratitude also to Richard and other fellow travellers in our search for Ossett's past and for their encouragement and assistance in piecing together a little more of the Ossett History jigsaw. My thanks are also due to David Scriven for additional research regarding Ginn's Mill, Spa Mills and Spa Baths. Finally my thanks to Mr John Myers, the current owner of the Spa Mills site, for his enthusiasm and encouragement and for his patience in waiting so long for its completion.

The following history is merely a small step in the recording of Ossett's less well known secrets and if the reader wishes to learn more of the history of the town in which they live then they should visit the Ossett Heritage website

Part of the purpose of this study is to leave a record of Ossett's history for those who follow us. This relies to a great extent on the memories of those of us who are here now and so I do hope that readers will be able to respond to a plea to contact me with their memories and/or photographs of Ossett Spa and indeed Ossett itself so that these memories might be recorded for future generations.

Finally I don't doubt that the following history will contain mistakes and misinterpretations and I would also welcome comments so that the history may be corrected. Otherwise I hope that the reader will find something they didn't know and something of interest in the following pages.

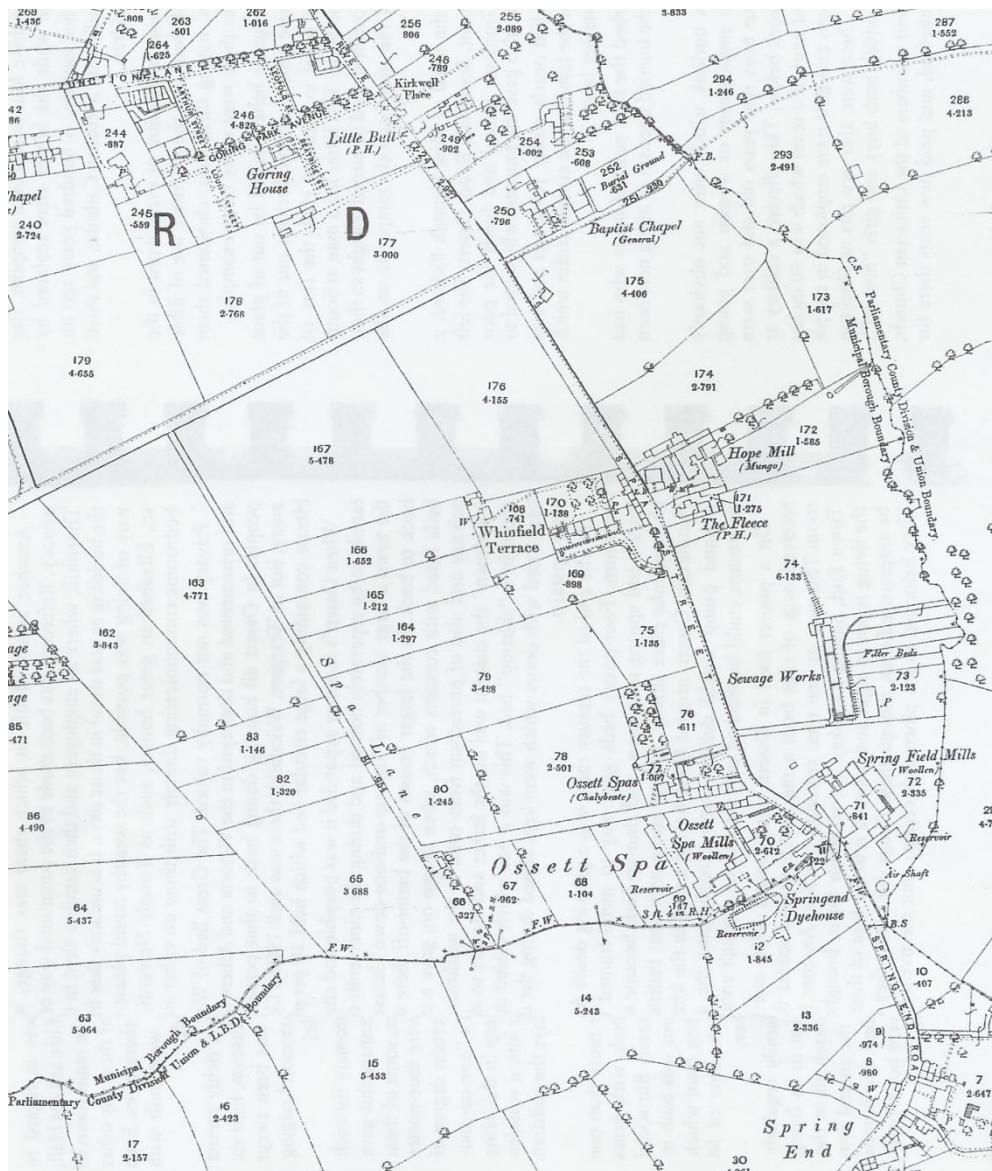
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October 2010 (revised)

Introduction

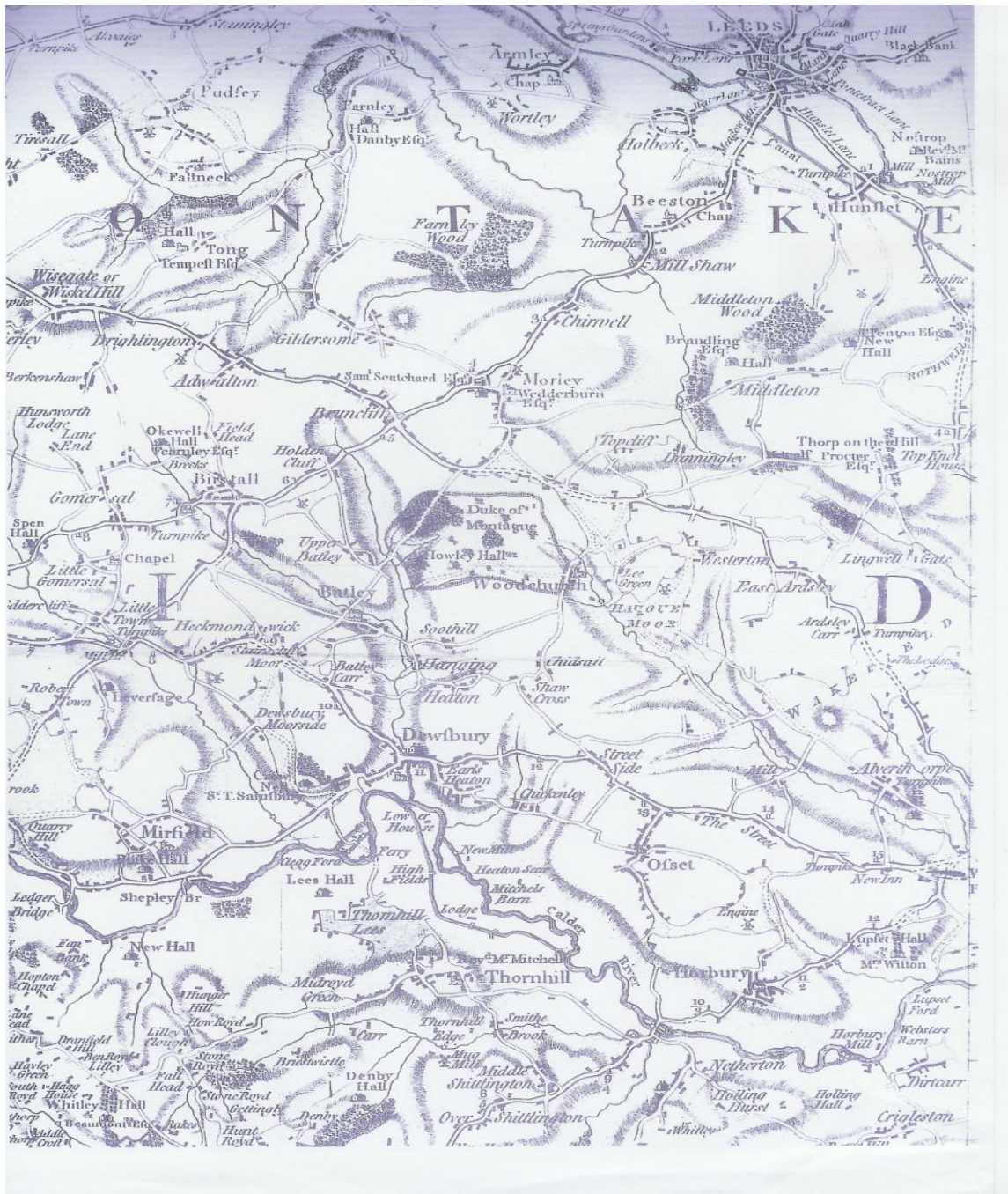
Ossett Spa Mill is situated on Spa Lane in South Ossett. The area in which the Mill is located is known as Ossett Spa deriving its name from the Spa waters that are said to be common thereabouts. For the purpose of this study The Spa is that area which is bordered on the north by Manor Road, on the west by Spa Lane on the east by the M1 and on the south by the Horbury/Ossett Parish boundary. By way of context, this research also includes the area adjacent to The Spa just beyond Manor Road to the north and once known, albeit briefly, as Little Harrogate and Montpelier Gardens

The extension of the research of Spa Mills to include the whole of Ossett Spa will provide some context for the history and development of Spa Lane and Ossett Spa Mills which is the main subject of this study. The area referred to in what follows is shown in the following map from 1890



Ossett Spa in Maps 1770-1933

There is an early map, Jefferies of about 1767/70, which shows a windmill and an engine in the vicinity of Ossett Spa, though it would not have been known by this name in 1767. This map is shown below but as the reader will note its scale leaves something to be desired in the context of detailed research. Nevertheless the symbols in the map are in the area of the Spa, as can be seen by the Ossett/Horbury boundary stream running east to west just below the symbols. The fact that they appear on the map indicate their importance at the time. They would be significant developments and landmarks in the 18th Century and there is more reference to this later.



Jefferies Map 1767/1770 showing Engine and Windmill in the area of Ossett Spa

Maps of suitable scale to assist detailed research did not really emerge until 1850 but in 2008 Richard Glover published his book "*Medieval and Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township*" which includes a map of Ossett showing key routes through the Township and the southern section of this map, which includes the Spa area, is shown overleaf.

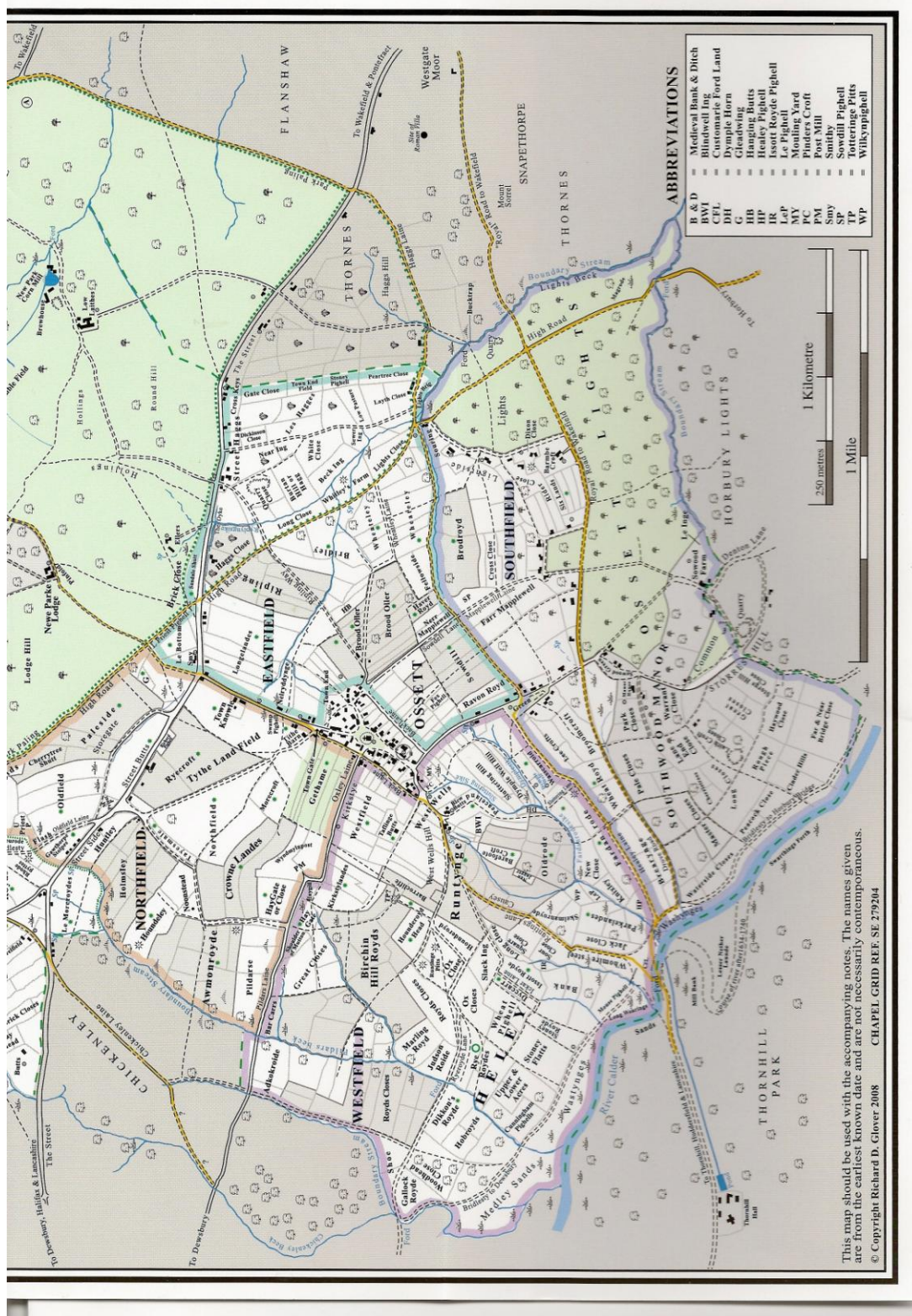
The map shows the area of Ossett Spa in the south east corner of Ossett Township located in an area once known as *Ossett Lights* and bordering Horbury Lights and Thornes. The following extracts from Mr Glover's book tell something of the earlier history of the locality which will explain why it was probable that there was little development in the Spa area much earlier than the 18th century.

Ossett was just one of 57 townships in the Manor of Wakefield which stretched intermittently from the Lancashire border in the west to Normanton in the east. The manorial system had been introduced into England by the Anglo-Saxons and was well established by Norman times. The earliest known records of Ossett appear in the Norman commissioned Domesday Book of 1086. This survey tells us a considerable amount about the landscape and states that there were 31/2 carucates of arable land in Ossett township, which was anything between 10% - 20% of the total area. This was estimated to be ploughed with two teams of eight oxen and would probably be worked in the immediate area of both Ossett and Gawthorpe and of the outlying homesteads. This can be seen on the map from the fields adjacent to the centre of the settlements. The population of the township in 1086 was stated as seven families, 4 villeins and 3 bordars, making a total of 35 or more, but would also have a number of 'servants' not included in the survey, who would work the land and help manage the woodlands. This was a small community for such a large area of land, some of it being retained by the lord which did not feed the peasants.

The Domesday Book also tells us that the township of Ossett had 'half a league of woodland pasture and as much broad', possibly as little as 10% of the total area, if we can take the boundaries to be the same as in the 14th century. There were other areas of trees, copses (haggs - coppice with palings to prevent animal entry), with some trees left as standard and small woods such as Owld Shaw and many trees around the field edges left before they were cleared that did not appear on the survey. So we can see the great majority of woodland had been cleared well before 1086. What was left was well managed.

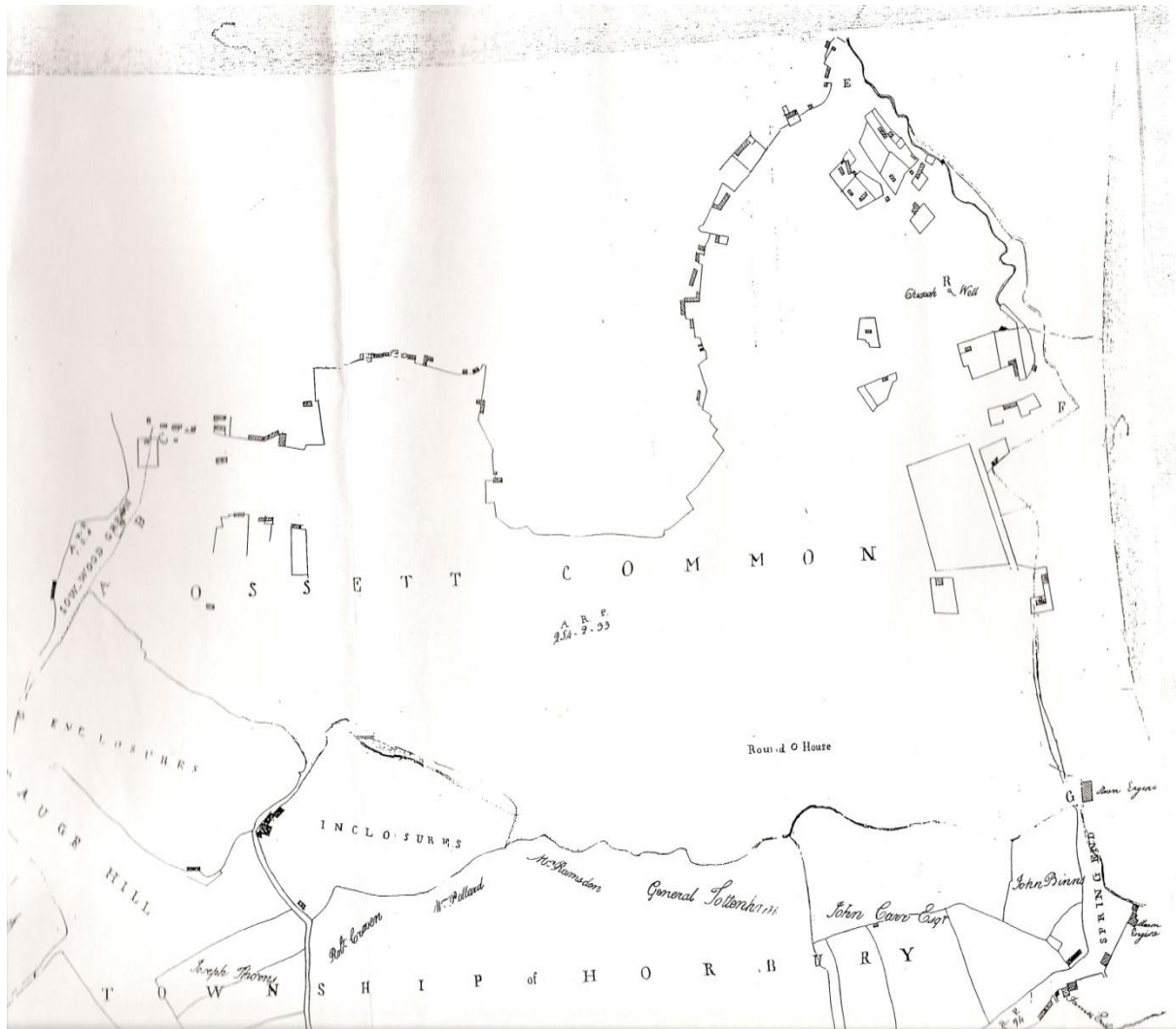
*The term woodland pasture refers to the type of land management that combined the growing of trees with the grazing of stock. The animals fed on the grass and plants, browsed the leaves and foraged for acorns and beech nuts. The trees were often pollarded above the animal height. New branches would replace the cut ones which allowed sunlight down to the woodland floor giving rise to the name '**the Lights**'. **Ossett Lights** with a total 254 acres [4] (103 hectares) was typical of this common land.*

The commoners (villagers) were granted rights of pasture for pigs and general rights to collect small wood for fuel, fencing and buildings. Any mineral rights stayed with the lord of the manor. These customs went back well before the Norman Conquest and lasted in Ossett Lights almost entirely until after the Enclosure Act of 1807 except for a number of small enclosures made in the 17th and 18th centuries. By 1709 The Lights had ten tenants for houses and small areas of land and one colliery.



Medieval and Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Town Map (part). Richard Glover 2008

The earliest map showing The Spa in any detail is the Manor of Wakefield Estate map of about **1790** when the area was shown as a part of Ossett Common. This map (below) shows a “Round House” to the west of the area of this study and a “Steam Engine” to the east. The wavy line towards the bottom of the map is a stream (which still exists in 2010) and this was also the boundary between the administrative districts of Horbury and Ossett.



To assist the reader in the interpretation of the map the top right hand corner is Hags Hill Road of today (2010). Directly below is a large irregular rectangular enclosure which was known (1813) as *Paupers Park*. This is shown as Field number 176 on the 1890 map and is situated to the south west of the junction of Manor Road and Spa Street. An early reference to Paupers Park is in the Ossett Inclosure Order 1813 when the ownership of the park is in the name of the Overseers of the Poor of Ossett.

Immediately below Paupers' Park is a small enclosure including a building. In this research this building is referred to as Whinfield House or Whinfield Place, situated today to the west of Whinfield Terrace. The house may have become the home of Edward Dews sometime in the early 1860's. Dews, one time grocer, was the builder of Whinfield Terrace, Dews Row (opposite The Fleece) and he was the owner of Spa Mills from about 1865 until his death in 1890 when his sons Ezra and Frederick took over the business. The Dews family also had interests in other land on the Spa and also in the Fleece and The Spa public houses but more of this later.

Directly to the east of Whinfield House, on the 1790 map, is a small enclosure with two buildings one of which is likely to be The Fleece though records do not show this to have been a beer house in 1790. Adjacent and to the north of The Fleece is another building which is situated where Ginns (Hope) Mill was to be located some time later. To the north of this is another enclosure again with a building. This is immediately to the east of Paupers' Park and today it is home to an old single storey worker's cottage which is now (2010) converted to a stable.

The features described above still exist today (2010) and with Emmerson's Mill and the Round House they may have been the only evidence of occupation here in the 18th century.

A *Steam Engine* is shown to the south east of Paupers Park and this would have been situated at Emmerson's Mill (now known as Springfield Mill). The history of this Mill is included later in this study. A second Steam Engine is shown just across the Horbury boundary. The *Round House* shown in the 1790 map above can also be seen in the 1890 map shown earlier. Reference to that map shows a small round feature at where Field number 82 abuts Field number 86.

Medieval and Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett (Richard Glover 2008) describes this Round House as follows;

"This would have been a stone or brick structure..... and would probably have been built in the early 18th Century. This mill was called a round house and the field name Whynn(Whim) Ginn (windmill engine) in the 1843 Tithe Award (By this time the mill was not in use)The mill would possibly have been used for pumping water for the colliery of William Naylor, mentioned in the 1709 Wakefield Manor book. The name remains today as (nearby) Whinfield Terrace."

Notwithstanding a possible alternative meaning of "Whin" as another name for gorse (Jennings Cyclopedia 1821) the 1843 Tithe Award referred to in Richard Glover's book above includes the field name "Whynn Gyn" for three fields which are adjacent. The Tithe Award map is not reproduced in this research but the three fields with this description are shown on the 1890 map as fields 86, 64 and 63. These fields include, or are adjacent to, the Round House feature shown in the map.

Research in 2010 suggests that the Round House could have been a structure built to drive a pump to drain water from coal seams below. If so it is likely that it was associated with "A colliery on a Comon(called Lights in Osset farmed by Joseph Naylor p(er) Lease under the yearly rent of 10s" as mentioned in the 1709 Manor Book. Directly to the east of the Round House site are 3 fields called Drain Close in the 1843 Tithe Award. This area has the name "Ossett Common Drain" in the 1807 Inclosure Order. These names suggest that ,if there was a small colliery here, then it would have required pumping mechanisms to remove water.

The next map to show the Spa area is the Ossett Inclosure Act of 1807 and the consequent Inclosure Order (and map) of **1813**. The Act was sponsored by most of the major landowners in Ossett with the objective of replacing the strip farming of land with enclosed fields (enclosures) which were a more economic and efficient method of farming. The outcome was a major shake up of land ownership in Ossett with those with land getting more and the Order signalled the end of strip farming and the use of *common* land for grazing and cropping by those who were less well off. The Act and Order had particular effect on South Ossett for there was much common land here. Thus the descriptions of areas in South Ossett such as Low Common (broadly the land bounded by South Parade, Manor Road and Teall Street), Ossett Middle Common(broadly Park Square/ Giggal Hill area) and adjacent areas denoted by the description Commonsides and Common End. The whole was known as Ossett Common as shown in the earlier 1790 Wakefield Manor Estate map.

The 1813 Order detailed land ownerships, including land allotted in the Inclosure Order, and also described the width and names of roads and the responsibilities attaching to land owners in terms of maintenance of fencing, hedging, streams, wells and so on. In so far as The Spa is concerned Spa Lane at that time was known as Emmerson Mill Road (because the road provided access to Emmerson's Mill – now Springfield Mill). Spa Street is called Horbury Road (sometimes Ossett and Horbury Road) and Manor Road/Baptist Lane is recorded as Wakefield Bridle Road. The map of the Order is large and the original copy can be difficult to read but a copy of the relevant parts of the map is reproduced overleaf. Land allotments and sizes (in Acres- Roods-Perches) are shown in the maps.

An examination of the "maps" in The Inclosure Order shows that in 1813 John and David Emmerson owned much of the land to the east of Spa Street including John Emmerson's Mill (now Springfield Mill). He also owned land up to and including land and premises where The Fleece public house now stands. Adjacent to this stands David Emmerson's ownership where Ginns Mill stood. In the 1890 map this Mill was known as Hope Mill. Later in this study there is more about The Fleece and Ginn's Mill. Other ownerships on this side of Spa Street include Mark Scott who was a descendant of the Scotts of Scotts Yard on Giggal Hill and the Wilby family who were also of Giggal Hill and Low Common.

The 1813 Inclosure Order map also shows Paupers' Park (dark shaded) and land ownerships in the name of William Naylor including land opposite The Fleece where Whinfield Terrace now stands. Naylor also has ownerships to the south of Spa Lane (Emmerson Mill Road on the map). It appears that William Craven owned the land on which (one of) the Spa baths was built and he also owned the land where Spa Mill was to be built some time later. Craven and Naylor owned most of the rest of the land on the south side of Emmerson Mill Road (Spa Lane) except for a small strip owned by Reverend Minister Matthew Dixon and by John Burdekin and others at the end of Spa Lane before it turned right and headed north towards Manor Road. The Burdekins of course are still well known in Ossett and even 200 years ago they were basket makers. To the west of Burdekins are two very narrow strips of land one of which was allotted to Timothy Lee (subsequently named Timothy Lee Croft) and the other to Andrew Pilkington. There is more about the Timothy Lee holding later in this study.

Ossett Inclosure Order 1813 – Map(part) showing Ossett Spa Street

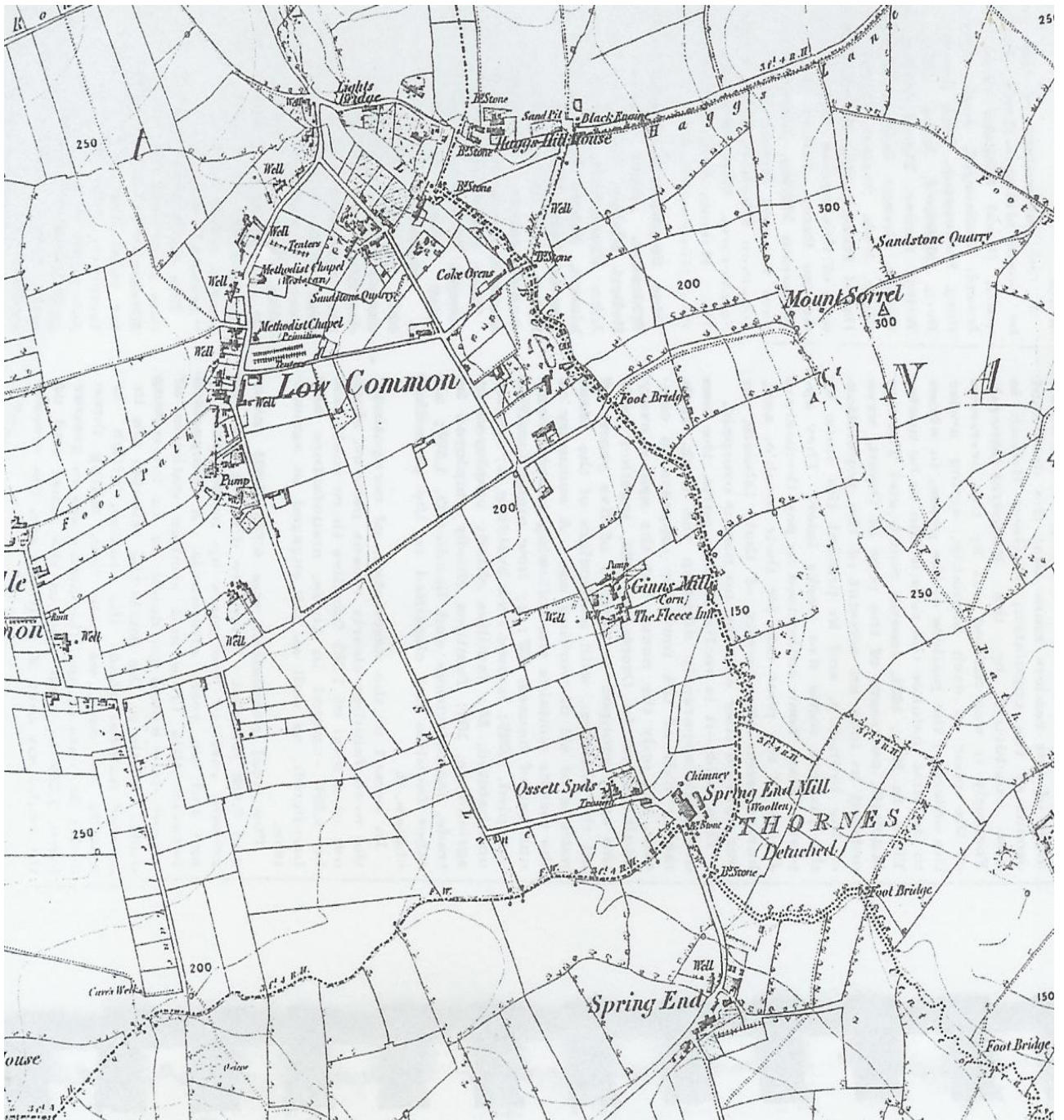


Paupers' Park is shown (dark shaded) at the top of the map at the south west of the junction between Horbury Road (now Spa Street) and Wakefield Bridle Road (Manor Road). Emmerson Mill is shown at bottom right opposite Emmerson Mill Road (now Spa Lane). The Fleece stands near the name "David Emmerson" on the map.

Ossett Inclosure Order 1813 Map (part) showing Spa Lane ownerships



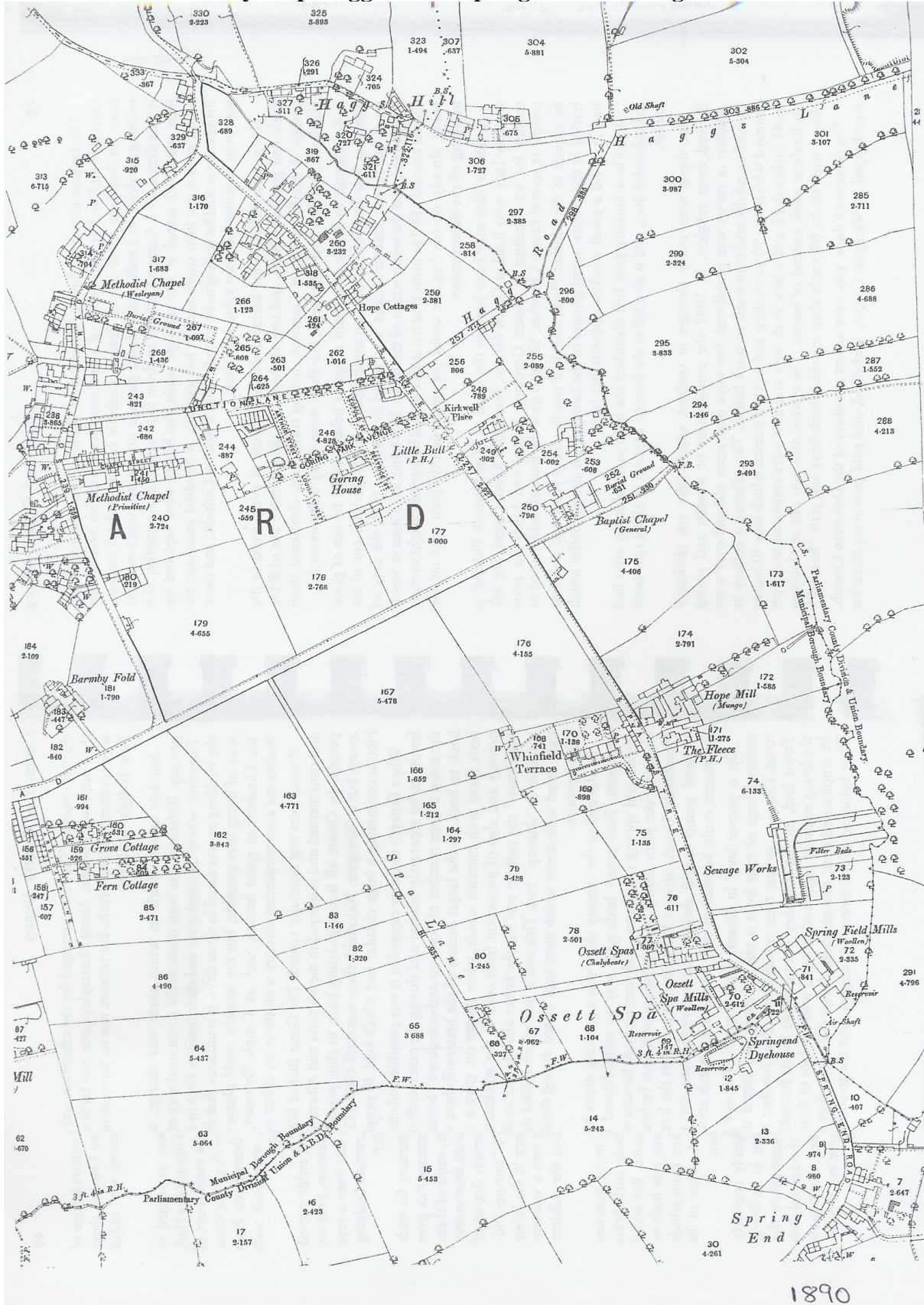
Whilst the 1790 and 1813 “maps” are useful markers of the area and its development and land ownership, it is 1850 before the first Ordnance Survey map is prepared and published. This is shown overleaf. It is however worth taking stock of how things were in the Spa area around 1800. The major feature at that time was Emmerson’s Mill with its cutting edge technology of the day taking advantage of the water flow from Spring Beck (or Lights Beck) and elsewhere. Mining was apparent with the Round House windmill pumping Ossett Common Drain water from underground coal seams. Evidence elsewhere suggests that Spa waters were beginning to emerge as an attraction to the area but residential accommodation was limited to a few houses mainly around Spring End and Spa Lane. There were good transport routes east and west via the important Wakefield Bridle Road (Manor Road/Baptist Lane) and south to Horbury and north along the High Road (Teal Town Road) to Leeds at Lights Bridge (Haggs Hill Road). Richard Glover’s *“Medieval and Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township”* makes more reference to these and other trade routes and the importance of the crossing of the Lights Beck (ie Spring Beck) at Lights Bridge (now the Haggs Hill Road/Teall Court ‘junction’).



1850 Ordnance Survey map showing the Ossett Low Common, The Spa and Spring End

The 1850 map reflects signs of emerging development in the first 50 years of the 19th century. Ginns Mill is shown to the north of The Fleece Inn and *Ossett Spa* is recorded, for the first time, on the north side of Emmerson Mill Road which now carries the name Spa Lane. Other buildings can be seen on land at the eastern end of Spa Lane but they are not named in the map. It is likely these are dwellings and some may have been associated with the local spa baths which are established by 1850. A building is also shown at the western end of Spa Lane but there is no evidence of Spa Mills. Emmersons Mill is known as Spring End Mill and it has a chimney. Wells are recorded opposite the Fleece on the land which is now Whinfield Terrace and another Well is recorded at Spring End. Housing still appears to be sparse and is concentrated at Spring End and Spa Lane with only Whinfield House and the Worker's Cottage appearing elsewhere. A building is shown to the north of Baptist Lane which maybe the Baptist Church.

1890 Ordnance Survey Map Hags Hill to Spring End including Low Common



By **1890** the Industrial Revolution is making its mark on Ossett Spa. There are now three mills and a dyeworks (Springfield Dyehouse south of Spa Mill) taking advantage of technology and the water supply from local springs and the Spring or Lights Beck which flows through the area. Emmerson Mill became Spring End Mill by 1850 and is now known as Spring Field Mills. It retains that name in 2010. Ginns Mill has become Hope Mill (Mungo). Others have also taken advantage of the local waters but the proposals to create a New Harrogate, Cheltenham or Montpelier Gardens have been and gone. However Spa House (east of the words on the map "*Ossett Spa chalybeate*") and the Spa baths remain and there are other reminders of what might have been had Matthew Wharton's proposals for a Spa Town been successful. There is more of this elsewhere in this study. [**Chalybeate** waters, also known as ferruginous waters, are mineral spring waters containing salts of iron]

The success of the Mills encouraged owners to provide accommodation for their workers. Dews Row (named after Edward Dews who built it) was opposite the Fleece Public House and to the west the rather grander Whinfield Terrace. This was also built by Spa Mill owner, Edward Dews, who could look out from his home at Whinfield House and proudly survey his work. Whinfield Terrace displays characteristics and ownership or tenancy by the more genteel members of society compared with those who lived at Dews Row and Spa Lane. One supposes that Edward Dews may have had an eye to the New Harrogate proposals a short distance away. Not at all bad for a Horbury born spinner turned grocer turned Mill, land and property owner.

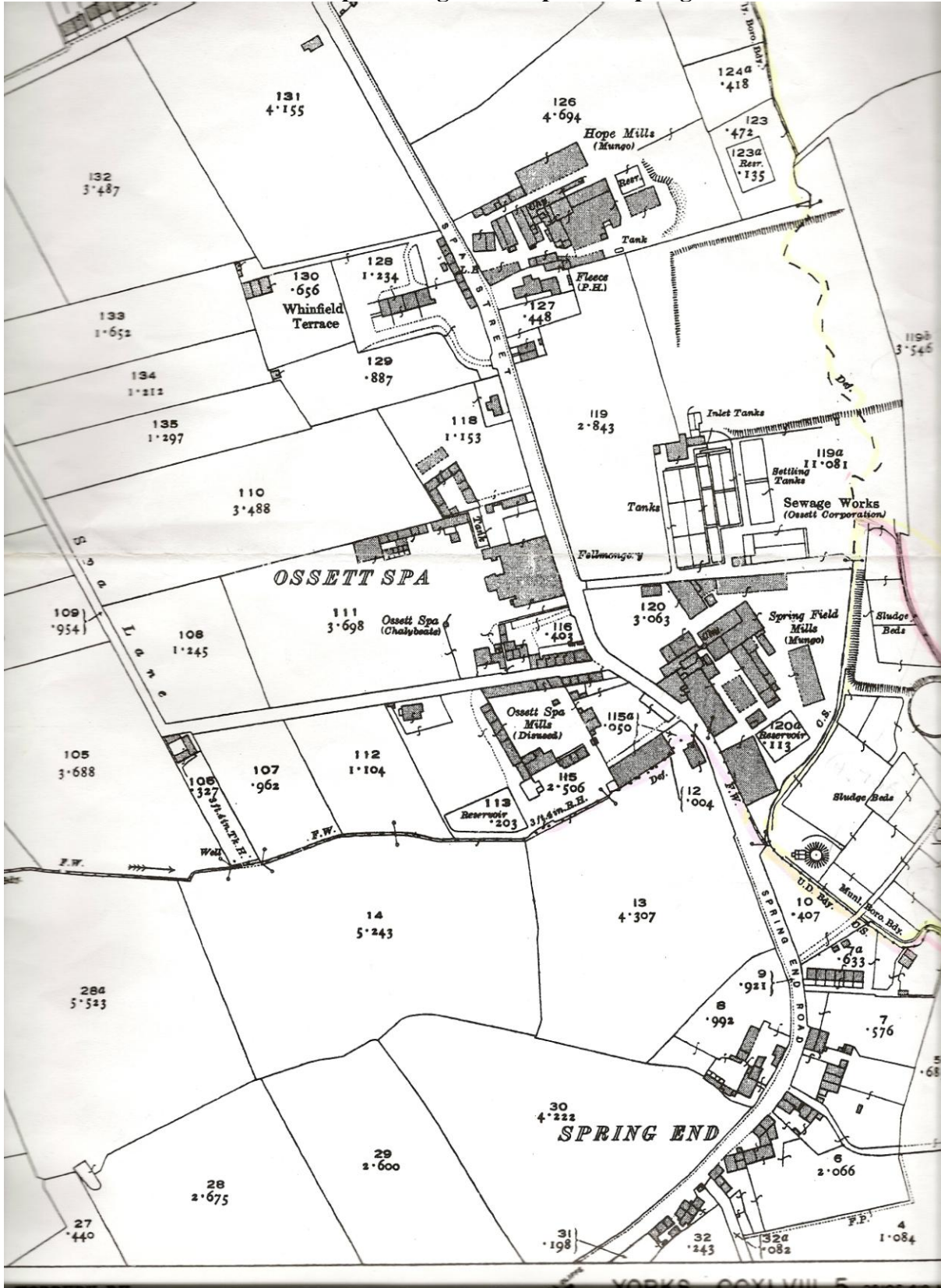
Further south at the junction of Spa Street and Spa Lane were more houses built on both sides of Spa Lane. Of course with the quality of the water supply being what it was there was little need for the usual alcoholic alternative but nevertheless the Spa Inn was constructed (about 1866) to provide some opposition to the long established and much older Fleece. Further south at Spring End the 1890 map appears to show little change to the earlier 1850 map.

The main focus of this study is Ossett Spa Mills but there is no sign of the Mills in the 1850 map and it seems likely that the Mill shortly afterwards. Certainly in 1859 Edward Dews was getting up to mischief on Westgate Common in Wakefield where, in 1861, he was a grocer but there is evidence of him at Ossett Spa shortly thereafter. The 1890 map shows an established Woollen Mill layout with frontage to Spa Lane. The Mill has its own reservoir at the south east point and there is another reservoir just over the Horbury boundary perhaps supplying the Dye House. There are other buildings between Spa Mill and Spa Street/Spring End Road.

Other evidence suggests that much of the change in the landscape (Spa Mill, Whinfield Terrace Dews Row and probably the Spa Lane housing and the Spa Inn itself) were probably constructed between the mid1850's- 1870's and that Edward Dews had a hand, or an involvement, in the first three of these changes. There are two other features worthy of note. The Sewage Works and Filter Beds to the east of Spa Lane and the Baptist Chapel and Spa School to the north of Baptist Lane become established features in the landscape.

We will pick this up again later but for now the final map "in the series" is that of 1933 and this is reproduced overleaf.

1933 OS Map showing Ossett Spa and Spring End



The map shows development since 1890. The Mill footprint at Hope Mill (Mungo) remains much the same as it was in 1890 whereas the older Spring Field Mill (Mungo) now has several extensions. Each Mill has its own reservoir to provide water in times of drought and perhaps to regulate the Spring Beck flow which must have been under pressure as the work of the Mills increased. Spring Field Dyehouse and the nearby reservoir are no longer shown. The Municipal Sewage Works and Filter Beds have undergone significant expansion and the works now extend onto land to the east of Spring Field Mill and further south towards Elba Terrace (built since 1890)

Ossett Spa Mill buildings appear to have largely survived though their use is unknown. A new long narrow building has appeared fronting on to Spa Lane. The reservoir remains but there have been other building changes within the site.

The housing at the eastern end of Spa Lane remains as does the Spa Inn at the junction of Spa Lane and Spa Street. The Spa Inn licence expired in 1937. Further industrial development has taken place just to the north of Spa Lane where a Fellmongery (Illingworths) has been established fronting on to Spa Street. Spa House and the Baths appear to have been demolished perhaps by Illingworths to accommodate their Fellmongery business. Further along Spa Lane, on the south side, a building is now shown which appears to be the house which stands there today (2010). A further building is shown in the position of the plot known as Timothy Lee Croft at the very end of Spa Lane before it turns north and heads towards Manor Road. Further development has also taken place between the Fellmongers and Whinfield Terrace and whilst this appears to be housing it may be smaller commercial units.

A house has been built on Spa Street toward the junction with Manor Road and Whinfield House appears to have been extended or perhaps divided into 3 units. At Spring End little has changed with the exception of the building of Elba Terrace and building work within the curtilage, to the northeast of, Spring End Cottage.

And so to today (2010). Only Spring Field Mill has survived of all the Mills and even then little of the original buildings can be seen today.. Hope Mill has gone all together and scant evidence remains of Ossett Spa Mill. Spring Field Dyehouse had been demolished before 1933.

The housing on Spa Lane (east end) and the Spa Inn were demolished in the 1950's/1960's as their lack of conveniences became less acceptable to occupants and the local authorities and as newer housing was built on Manor Road and further north. Dews Row has also gone and newer industrial units have taken the place of older units, including the fellmongers. Spa House on Spa Lane, the home of the Goldsmiths and Rileys for so long as they maintained the baths, has been demolished by 1933. Some housing has been built along Spa Street.

But not all has gone. Whinfield Terrace remains and three features of the 1790 landscape still remain. Whinfield House (though it may be a different building), The Fleece, the worker's cottage to the south of Baptist Lane. The Chalybeate Spa Well has also survived all that can be thrown at it.

The History of some landmarks at and near Ossett Spa

Little Harrogate

Goring House, Ossett Common, once the home of Ossett author Stan Barstow, is virtually all that remains of an ambitious project at the end of the 19th century to develop part of Ossett Common as the "New Montpelier Pleasure Gardens", likened to a Little Harrogate by Batley Carr entrepreneur and former drugget manufacturer, Mathew Wharton. Goring House was built by an associate of Wharton's, John Tennant, a Dewsbury property developer and auctioneer who committed suicide in one of the bedrooms of Goring House in April 1888 after he also encountered severe financial difficulties.



Above: Goring House, once the home of Ossett novelist Stan Barstow and also previously owned by John Tennant, Joe Bentley and Alfred Kilbank. For a while it was converted into two flats.

Little Harrogate

The little Harrogate scheme, to which Goring House stands a single memorial seems first to have been mooted in 1879. In January that year, the "*Ossett Observer*" reported:

"It was informed on reliable authority that the first section of a project for transforming Ossett Spa into a second Harrogate, as a summer residence for visitors, is to be immediately carried out. Land has already been purchased, several acres in extent, and the services of an experienced architect engaged to lay out the same into sites for residences, boarding houses and other buildings of a public character. The whole of the streets are to be planted with trees in the continental style."



New Montpelier Pleasure Grounds

The lime trees, which still form avenues in Goring Park Avenue and the adjoining streets were planted in 1864, but advertising of the sites for villa residences "*to be purchased over a period of six years on a quarterly installment plan*" seems to have had no takers and only Goring House stands as a reminder of the ambitious scheme to develop this part of Ossett.

In 1884, part of the Spa estate land was taken over by a Batley Carr manufacturer, Mathew Wharton, with the aim of developing it as the New Montpelier Pleasure Grounds with extensive gardens, a boating lake, rides and amusements.

There was an advertisement in *"The Era"*, a London Newspaper on March 22nd 1884, as follows:

"WANTED - Violins, Flute, Double-Bass and a complete orchestra. Six-month season commencing on Good Friday (rehearsal, Thursday, April 10th) for the New Montpellier Gardens, South Ossett Spa. Apply, stating terms to J.W.R. Binns, 78 Reuben Street, Leeds."

A public entertainment was staged over the Easter holiday in 1884 and the French tightrope walker, Charles Blondin (1824-97), who had who walked across a rope suspended above Niagara Falls, performed there. Sadly, the venture was no more successful than the rest of the "Little Harrogate" schemes and by June, Wharton was bankrupt. Wharton had a history of financial failures in the textile and entertainment businesses, including the loss of £1,000 leasing a pier on the Isle of Man. The first notices appeared in the local press by July 1884 ¹ :

"IN BANKRUPTCY - Notice is hereby given that Mathew Wharton, Jun., of Upper Road, Batley Carr, Dewsbury and Montpellier Gardens, Ossett Spa both in the County of York, was on the 10th day of July, 1884 adjudged bankrupt by the County Court of Yorkshire holden at Dewsbury - John Arthur Deane, Official Receiver."

At the subsequent bankruptcy hearing held in August 1884, Wharton's less than honest dealings with John Tennant were first revealed: ²

"The next examination was that of Mr Mathew Wharton, who has from some time back entered into rash speculations as a public entertainer. The debtor resides at Batley Carr. In reply to the Official Receiver, he said that from 1880 up to a fortnight before Easter, he had carried on no business. He was formerly a drugget manufacturer and when he ceased in 1880, he had a capital of £8,000, which he invested in property. He then went to the Isle of Man and lost £1,000. Since he gave up business as a manufacturer, he had kept no books except rent books. He sold his furniture at the latter end of April 1884 and went to live in a less house. He had had two sales of furniture. The one in April realised £70. It was sold to John Tennant. His father died in 1880 and left him £6,000 and at his mother's death £800 came to him. The debtor was examined by Mr. R.W. Evans, solicitor, respecting the failure of his last speculation, the Montpellier Pleasure Gardens, Ossett and the disposal of various articles connected therewith, for which he owed money to various tradesmen and admitted having sold goods which cost £300 to John Tennant for £36. He did not know where Tennant was, but he had told him that he was going to the south of England. The examination was adjourned and a restraining order was granted against Tennant to prevent him from selling a dancing platform and other fixtures in his possession."

Suicide

Goring House was the only villa residence to be erected as part of the Little Harrogate scheme and was built by a man named John Tennant, who was possibly also the promoter for the Little Harrogate and New Montpellier Gardens project and had bought into Mathew Wharton's big scheme. Tennant was a colourful character who started off in life as a joiner and builder in Dewsbury, but went into property speculation in a serious way. He was also in partnership with a Leeds man called Leon Gross in a money-lending business until the partnership was dissolved in 1888.⁴ Tennant was also in a partnership with a man called Oldroyd as *"Tennant & Oldroyd, Auctioneers"* in Dewsbury.

Interestingly, Tennant had been in trouble with the local magistrates in 1886, which might give an insight into his character: ³

"At Dewsbury on Thursday, Mr. John Tennant an auctioneer and large property owner, was fined £20 with the option of three months imprisonment for letting some of his house properties for immoral purposes. It was shown that the houses were of the worst possible character and Tennant's knowledge of the use to which they were put was proved to the magistrates satisfaction."

Tennant's method of paying his creditors had been to give them plots of land on the Ossett Spa Estate. The ensuing obscurity of ownership led to large areas of the land being left derelict up to at least the 1980s. By April 1888, 49 year-old Tennant was in serious financial trouble and committed suicide in one of the bedrooms of his residence at Goring House: ⁵

"SAD DEATH OF DEWSBURY GENTLEMAN - Mr John Tennant, a retired joiner and builder, late of Dewsbury, where he is well-known as a property owner, was found dead in his bedroom at the Spa, Ossett yesterday morning. The deceased gentleman got up to light the fire and shortly afterwards returned to his bedroom, telling his wife that he had done so. Mrs. Tennant afterwards went downstairs, leaving him there and about a couple of hours later, as he did not make an appearance, she went to seek him. His bedroom door was locked and eventually assistance was obtained to burst it open. The deceased was then found hanging from the top of the bedstead with a piece of clothes line round his neck and quite dead. He was forty-nine years of age. At the inquest last evening, it was stated that the deceased gentleman was strong and healthy, but since Christmas last had been in low spirits, having had trouble in his business and lost a great deal of money. In his pocket was a letter dated the previous day to his son John Thomas Tennant:- "Dear Son - This is more than I can bear. I blame no-one but myself. Forgive me, and do the best you can for yourself, mother, Clara, Sarah-Ann, and lastly Emily. - Your father in trouble, John Tennant." A verdict was returned in accordance with the facts."

Influx of Miners

ironically, the presence of its spa waters in the many wells and springs in the area seems to have had less permanent effect on the development of Ossett Common than the opening of Roundwood Colliery, which brought an influx of miners from Barnsley and Featherstone to settle in the area.

Until the 20th century, the typical miners dwelling was still the low stone croft cottage. At Ossett Spa, a miners cottage has recently been restored (see below). In a survey of the living and working conditions of Yorkshire miners made in 1841, the inspectors describe the cramped conditions of large families living in similar cottages, usually consisting of just two small rooms.



Above: An old worker's cottage at Ossett Spa that is currently being used as a stable. The two- roomed cottage was typical of the type of house that some Ossett workers lived in during the early 19th century.

1. *"Leeds Mercury"*, Monday, July 21st 1884.
2. *"Leeds Mercury"*, Wednesday, August 20th 1884.
3. *"Leeds Mercury"*, Saturday, March 20th 1886.
4. *"Leeds Mercury"*, Saturday, January 7th 1888.
5. *"Leeds Mercury"*, Friday, April 20th 1888.
6. *"Leeds Mercury"*, Saturday, 28th February 1853.

The Spa Well & Baths - Spa Lane

An important development in the history of this part of Ossett was the establishment in the first quarter of the 19th Century of Spa Baths; and of course it is from this development that Ossett Spa derived its name. The belief in the curative powers of mineral waters can be traced back to prehistoric times and a number of locations became famous for the quality of their waters.

In Ossett's case the spring water sources at what came to be known as, the Spa were known as *Chalybeate*. Also known as ferruginous water these are mineral spring waters containing salts of iron which were said to have health giving properties. In England a Chalybeate Spring was established in Tunbridge Wells in 1606 and many more were established at different locations in the following 200 years or so. The closest bath establishments to Ossett were at Harrogate and the influx of wealthy sickly visitors from as long ago as the 17th Century made a major contribution to the wealth of the town. Thus a part of Ossett, the area around Goring Park Avenue, attracted the name "New Harrogate" as plans were developed to replicate Harrogate's success and exploit the nearby springs. It was not to be a success as we have seen elsewhere in this study. Nevertheless the Spa at Ossett had preceded the notion of a New Harrogate in Ossett and continued to operate after this ill fated venture.

Cheltenham was also a home for Chalybeate waters and it was the Cheltenham name which was to feature in the development and promotion of the Bathing establishments at Ossett Spa in the 19th Century. Cheltenham was also home to The Montpelier Gardens and Ossett also adopted this description in conjunction with proposals to the north of Manor Road in the second half of the 19th Century.

Research by local historian John Goodchild reveals that a Horbury stone mason, James *Ward* (1746-1832) was the first to recognise the restorative properties of Ossett Spa waters. The Ossett Inclosure Act (1807) and the resultant Order of 1813 allotted to William Craven, a large part of the land which was to become the home of Ossett Spa on the north side of Spa Lane (then known as Emmerson Road on account of it being the way to nearby Emmerson or Spring End Mill). The map attached to the 1807 Inclosure Order is shown elsewhere in this research.

The Inclosure Order also includes, as John Goodchild maintains, an allotment to James *Ward* but this allotment is not at the Spa but much further north along Teal Town Road near today's junction of Teall Street and South Parade. However the Order also allots, to a James *Wade*, two pieces of land on the north (1 rood 9 perches) and south (1 rood 19 perches) side of Spa Lane at the junction with Spa Street. James *Wade* was also a Horbury stone mason. (West Yorks Archive Service [WYAS] Deed 1827 vol IW page 52 no.41).

The area of land on the north side of Spa Lane which was allotted to James *Wade* in 1807 is adjacent to William Craven's ownership. The boundary between Craven's and *Wade*'s allotments is the approximate position of the Chalybeate Spring which was to be the source of water to the bath establishments. James *Wade* is also mentioned in the 1832 Notice reproduced below as living on Spa Lane in that year. Moreover he is shown in an 1827 land transaction with William Booth Thornton, amongst others, who is also mentioned in a Notice regarding the baths in 1832. Whether it was *Wade* or *Ward* it is certain that *Wade* was a land owner here in the first quarter of the 19th century and he was involved in land and funding transactions with Dr Thornton who appears in a notice for the Baths.

It is not known if and when *Wade/Ward* opened a bath at Ossett Spa, though if he did it was probably between 1819-1823. There is evidence that James *Wade*, and his wife Sarah, were involved in transactions in 1819 (WYAS GZ 673 737) and 1823 (WYAS HO 691 690) which suggest *Wade* may have been borrowing money secured against his 2 roods 28 perches on Spa Lane. Was this funding for him to build the first Spa? John Goodchild finds that "*Ossett Baths*" were still owned by *Ward* when

they were offered to let in 1829. The bath house was then advertised as having four warm baths and one cold bath.

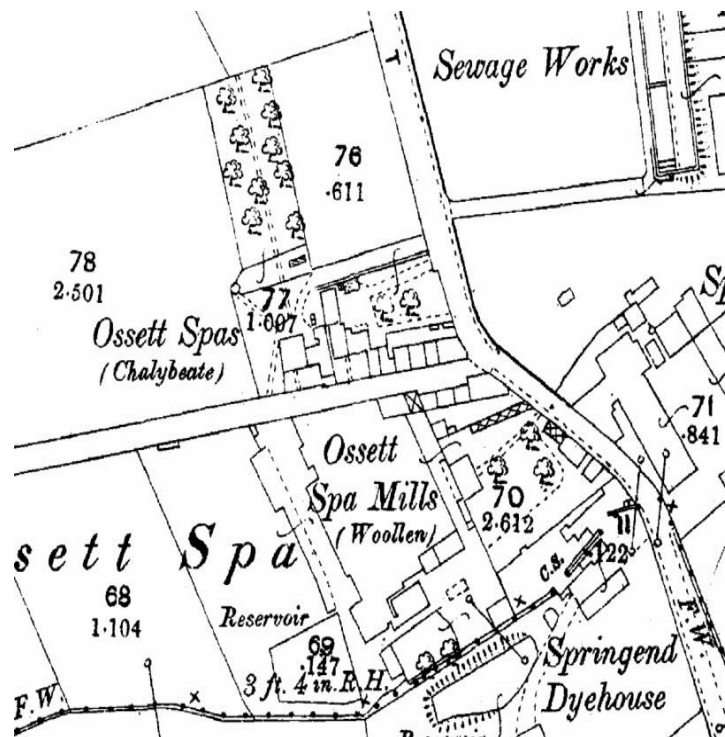
The description then went on to say "*The premises are delightfully situated and the waters have been analysed by several eminent men and spoken of by them as a little inferior to Cheltenham; they have gained a very high reputation from the many surprising cures they have performed. These waters are celebrated for curing gout, rheumatism and the scrofula.*"

The Deeds referred to above are considered in the census section because they also refer to the presence of six cottages on Spa Lane in the 1820's. Five of these cottages were located at the Spa Street end of Spa Lane. The sixth cottage was at the opposite end of Spa Lane at Timothy Lee Croft.

It is worth noting here that a Notice of 1853 (reproduced later) claims that William Craven established the New Cheltenham Baths "upwards of 30 years ago" suggesting a build in the early 1820's. Some evidence (eg plot size) suggests that these baths were different to those owned/occupied by Wade/Ward whilst other evidence (eg both baths appear to include the *New Cheltenham* description) suggests they were the same.

In 1827 James Wade and his wife Sarah enter into a Deed with John Schofield, William & Thomas Barff and William Booth Thornton relating to the 23 perches (Timothy Lee Croft & cottage) and also 5 cottages in 2 roods & 28 perches. It is not clear if this is Wade selling or borrowing against the security of the property but WB Thornton, who has a financial interest in the Spa, is mentioned in the 1832 Notice (see below) as giving advice to visitors.

The Notice overleaf reveals that by 1826 there were two Spa baths on Spa Lane. Whilst both were well established by 1850 the Ordnance Survey map of that year does not make clear their position on Spa Lane then known as Emmerson Road. The 1890 map however does provide a better idea of the location of the baths which are described elsewhere as being adjacent. Examination of the map will show a (private) road running parallel to and north of Spa Lane. At the end of this road is a house with outbuildings and a well laid out garden with pathways which was the location of one of the bath establishments. The other bath appears to have been situated closer to Spa Street (which in 1807 was allotted to James Wade) to the south of the private road but fronting on to it.



**NEW CHELTENHAM BATHS,
HORBURY, & OSSETT-SPRING-END.**

D. LAND

BEGS leave to return his grateful Acknowledgments to the Public, for the very liberal encouragement which he received during the last Summer. The great benefit conferred upon Invalids, since the Establishment of this Bath, induces him to look forward with confidence for still more liberal support; and, in soliciting the same, he begs to state, that he has, with considerable expense, fitted up his Accommodations in a superior Style, so as to be excelled by few Baths in the Country, for convenience and comfort.

The Medical Qualities of the Water, which has been analyzed by Mr. WEST, Chemist, of Leeds, are found to resemble those of Cheltenham more nearly than any other. The diseases in which the Waters are most efficacious, are Cutaneous Affections, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Visceral Obstructions, Diseases in the Joints, &c.

COLD, WARM, AND SHOWER-BATHS.

N. B. Persons may be accommodated with Board and Lodgings, on moderate Terms, at respectable Residences in the Neighbourhood.

W. CRAVEN, Proprietor.

On 25 May 1827 a Notice (opposite) appeared in The Wakefield & Halifax Journal. The notice records a commendation by David Land who appears to be renting a bath establishment from W Craven "Proprietor" for at least one year. This, and the 1829 letting, referred to elsewhere suggests there were two bath establishments at Ossett Spa by 1829. One is the bath referred to in the Notice opposite and the second appears to be owned by James Ward (Wade?) and advertised to let in 1829 per John Goodchild's findings. The Notice opposite is headed "*New Cheltenham Baths Horbury & Ossett Spring End*" and it also reveals there were residences on the Lane in 1827.

In 1831 the Wakefield and Halifax Journal (27 May 1831) carried a Notice (overleaf) for the sale by auction of Lot 2 being the "*New Cheltenham Spa and Baths*" a dwelling house together with the Spa House and four further (adjacent) dwelling houses. The size (2 roods

28 perches) of this Lot tells us this is Wade's land at the north and south of Spa Lane at the junction with Spa Street. In addition Lot 1 is for sale and this comprises a dwellinghouse now in the tenure of James Wade. This is the (23 perches) Timothy Lee Croft at the western end of Spa Lane.

The Notice reveals that in 1831 there were dwelling houses on Spa Lane. In addition to the Bath Houses, *The New Cheltenham* also had a Spa House (which may be the building which contained the Chalybeate spring – the remains of the building are shown elsewhere) a Dwellinghouse and a further four dwellinghouses "adjoining thereto". The Notice is reproduced overleaf. Also worthy of note is the comment that the premises have been "*recently fitted*" confirming the thought that these bath houses, and possibly therefore, the adjacent houses, originated in the mid 1820's.

Less than 12 months later on 4th May 1832 the same Journal carried a Notice (overleaf) placed by D Land in which he informs the reader that he has occupied one of the two Bath establishments for six years. i.e. since 1826. He is to continue to occupy those baths and, in addition, will occupy the adjoining baths. The Notice informs us that the facilities here are different but complementary to those at the New Cheltenham. Board and Lodging or private rooms with families are available immediately adjoining the baths. The 1832 Notice carries the heading "*The Ossett Spring End Cheltenham Baths*"; a new description to encompass the two baths. One is owned by Wm Craven and occupied by David Land and the other is owned by James Wade (Ward?). From 1832 David Land was to occupy both.

NEW CHELTENHAM SPA AND BATHS.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY MR. J. HOWEATE,

At the House of Mr. Norcliffe, the Red Lion Inn, in Ossett, on Thursday, the 2nd Day of June next, at 10 o'clock, subject to such Conditions as shall be produced at that Time; and either together, or in the following Lots:

LOT I.

ALL that MESSUAGE, or DWELLING-HOUSE, with the Garden and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate on Ossett Common, and containing a Site of 23 Perches, formerly occupied by Richard Ramsden, but now in the Tenure of Mr. James Wade.

LOT II.

ALL that MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, with the Garden and Appurtenances to the same belonging and adjoining, together with the Spa-House, Bath-Houses, and other Conveniences attached; and also, FOUR other MESSUAGES or Dwelling-Houses, adjoining thereto, with the Gardens and Appurtenances to them belonging, all situate and being on Ossett Common, near Wakefield, midway between the Towns of Ossett and Horbury, the Site containing 2r. 18p., called the *New Cheltenham Spa*, and now or lately occupied by Wm. Willison, Edward Moulson, Joseph Chappel and others.

The above Premises have been recently fitted up in an expensive and most convenient Manner, and contain Two China Baths, One China Sitting Bath, Two Cold Baths, Shower Bath, Plunging Bath, &c. &c. with the Cisterns and Boilers all new and complete.

The Waters of the New Cheltenham have been repeatedly analysed, and pronounced by Gentlemen of great judgment to be little, if anything, inferior to those of its great prototype in Gloucestershire, and have been found particularly efficacious in Rheumatic and Scrofulous Complaints.

This Property offers such an Opportunity as seldom occurs for a most advantageous Investment of a Small Capital, and, as the Character of the Water is fully established, Management and Attention is only required to render the Spot the favourite Resort of numerous and respectable Visitors.

Mr. CHARLES TOULSON, of Ossett, will shew the Baths and Premises; and further Information may be had at the Office of

Messrs. ARCHER and GREAVES,
Solicitors, Ossett.

Ossett, May 20th, 1831.

THE OSSETT SPRING END CHELTENHAM BATHS, NEAR WAKEFIELD.

DLAND most respectfully begs to offer his grateful acknowledgments to his Friends, and the Public in general, for the very liberal support he has met with during the six years he has occupied the above Baths, and to announce to them that, in consequence of such encouragement, he has, in addition to the Baths he formerly occupied, taken the adjoining Bath establishment, consisting of Medicated Vapour, Warm, Sulphureous Sitting, Shower and Plunge Baths, which he has fitted up at considerable expence, in a Superior Style. The Medical qualities of the Water of this Spa are found, (according to the analysis of Mr. WEST, Chemist, and Mr. CHORLEY, Surgeon, both of Leeds,) to resemble those of Cheltenham nearer than any other, and the Diseases in which the Waters are most efficacious, are Cutaneous affections, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Visceral obstructions, Ulcers, Diseases of the Joints, &c.

The Vapour Bath is rapidly superseding all other kinds in this country, and has long been a most important agent in other nations, both in health and disease. It can be used at various temperatures, according to the object in view; in exciting perspiration, removing chronic pains, stiffness of the joints and general rigidity of the System: when accompanied with Friction in connection with medicated Water it is superior to every other kind of bathing, and perhaps to every other known remedy. Indeed it is now considered an indispensable appendage to all general bathing establishments. It is found a remedial agent of great utility in acute and chronic diseases; and of singular efficacy where ordinary modes of treatment have failed. In obstinate cases of Gout, Rheumatism Sciatica, Palsy, Dropsy, Cancer in its incipient state, Dormant or deceased Liver, &c. likewise in most cases where the nervous System and the Digestive organs are weakened or deranged and the Secretions are defective, vitiated or obstructed. By restoring the balance of circulation, and determining the Blood to the surface and lower extremities, it prevents Apoplexy, &c.; it excites the action of the Absorbents, subdues Inflammation, relieves or prevents expectoration of Blood, and gives tone and vigour to the Body. The Sulphureous Baths possess in an eminent degree the power of stimulating the Cutaneous Vessels, and their use will be found a desideratum in the cure of diseases in the Skin when other means have been tried in vain, viz. in Scorbatic Eruptions, Scrofulous Affections of the Joints and Limbs, obstinate Ulcers of the lower extremities; in indolent Tumours, red, hard, dry eruptions of the Face and Neck, Leprosy, Ring-worm, &c. &c.

Shower Bathing is efficacious in preventing Headaches, occasioned by vascular fulness or nervous debility. To the healthy it is a prevention of the consequences of exposure to cold and the sudden changes of the weather. In some instances the Shower Bath may be employed as a Tonic by persons standing in warm Water immediately upon their leaving the Vapour Bath.

A separate establishment is provided for the poor, at a reduced Price.

Individuals resorting to these Baths may be accommodated with Board and Lodgings on moderate Terms, or Families with Private Rooms immediately adjoining the Baths.

W. B. THORNTON, M. D. will attend the Baths three days in each week (Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays,) to give advice to such visitors as may be pleased to consult him, or at any other time required.

Medicated Vapour Bath, 3s; Sulphureous Bath, 2s.; Warm and Shower Bath, 1s.; Cold and Plunging Bath, 6d.

Ossett Spa

The south east corner of Ossett was known as Spring End, because of the springs of water bubbling up through the soil. At the beginning of the nineteenth century spas, which were all the rage in Europe, started to catch on in England. If Ilkley could do it, so could Ossett. By 1826 the Spring End Cheltenham Baths, tenanted by David Land, were operating. They were described as consisting of medicated vapour, sulphurous, sitting, shower or plunge baths, with a separate establishment for the poor at a reduced price. The remains of a bath house shown, had a well in the centre, where bubbling water could be seen. A large house was built to accommodate those visiting to take the waters. The enterprise lasted until the 1860s.

In 1896 Albert Illingworth set up a fellmongering business (taking the wool from sheep's pelts) in buildings adjacent to the bath house, so that he could utilise the ample supply of water. An Illingworth was still running the business when it closed down in 1986. Later occupants of the site capped the well, demolished the bath house, drained the pond and enlarged the car park. A piece of history gone forever.



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Above; Extract from “Ossett Pubs” Brian Smith Ossett Historical Society 2004

The above photograph shows the Spa Well building, perhaps once known as the Spa House, prior to its partial demolition. The remains of the building are shown elsewhere in this study. The pond in front of the building is actually the tank used by Illingworths in connection with their fellmongering business. The location of the building can be seen on the 1890 map as a small circle at the rear of a house with what appears to be well laid out gardens and grounds. The map describes the locality as “*Ossett Spas (Chalybeate)*”. The building pictured above appears on the map as a small circle above the second “s” in the word “Spas”

As the above Notice from 1832 shows David Land (born between 1778 and 1786) took over James Wade's baths. It is not known for how long the two baths were operated by Land but it appears likely that he died before 1837. Some of the Trade Directories from the first half of the 19th century include reference to the Spa baths indicating that they were a popular attraction at the time. The 1843 Tithe Award shows James Arnell occupying the land (known as Spa Close) on which the Baths were built. The owner of the land was Mary Boyne. In 1847 White's Leeds and Clothing District Directory records James Arnell as an Ossett Common Bath Keeper and perhaps he operated both baths following Land's death. Arnell also rented the land opposite; land which was to become Spa Mill a few years later.

Sale of Spa Baths - Leeds Mercury 26 February 1853

Cheltenham Baths, and Valuable Freehold and Copyhold Land, in the Township of Ossett, near Wakefield.

By Mr. BECKETT, (by order of the devisee in trust for sale), at the house of Mr. Charles Richardson, the Fleece Inn, in Horbury, near Wakefield, on *Monday, the Twenty-eighth day of February, 1853*, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions, and in the following or such other lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of sale,

THE following valuable ESTATE, situate in the township of Ossett, in the parish of Dewsbury, that to say—

Lot 1. All that Close or Parcel of LAND, situate on Ossett Common, adjoining upon Emmerson Mill-road, containing 1A. 0R. 11P. or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. Ezekiel Goldsmith.

Lot 2. All that Close or Parcel of LAND, near to lot 1, and adjoining to Emmerson Mill-road, containing 3A. 11P. or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Mitchell.

Lot 3. All that Parcel of LAND, adjoining to lot 2, containing 19 perches or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of R. Sunderland.

Lot 4. All that MESSUAGE, Tenement, or Dwelling-House, situate on Ossett Common, with the Spa house, hot and cold bath houses, boiler house, stable, and other buildings to the same belonging, called "THE NEW CHELTENHAM BATHS;" also the close of land and garden adjoining thereto, and the private road leading therefrom into the Horbury and Ossett road, containing together, including the sites of the buildings, 1A. 0R. 3P. or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. E. Goldsmith.

The celebrated spa well from which the baths are supplied is upon this lot. The water was analyzed some years ago by the late William West, F.R.S., and was found to be very similar to the waters at Cheltenham.

The baths (which were established upwards of thirty years ago by the late William Craven, Esq., of Horbury) are much resorted to by persons suffering from rheumatic affections. They have also proved highly efficacious in all cutaneous complaints and in cases of general debility.

Lot 5. All that Parcel of LAND, adjoining lot 4, and fronting Emmerson Mill-road, containing two acres or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. E. Goldsmith.

Lot 6. All that Parcel of LAND, adjoining to lot 4, on the north, fronting into the Horbury and Ossett road, and containing 1A. 0R. 20P. or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. E. Goldsmith.

Lot 7. All that Parcel of LAND, adjoining lot 6, also fronting into the Horbury and Ossett road, and containing 2A. 25P. or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. E. Goldsmith.

The above estate is situate in the thickly populated and rapidly improving district lying between Horbury and Ossett, and within three miles of Wakefield and Dewsbury. The land is in sound condition, and is peculiarly adapted for either building, agricultural, or manufacturing purposes.

The baths are capable of considerable extension and improvement, and will be found a lucrative investment.

The tenure of the estate is freehold, and copyhold compounded for, of the manor of Wakefield.

A plan of the whole may be seen, and any further information obtained, on application at the offices of

Mr. J. B. PRESTON, Solicitor, 1, Bond-street, Leeds.
Leeds, 7th February, 1853.

The above Notice from February 1853 is for the sale by auction of land on both sides of Spa Lane. Lot 4 reveals that the *New Cheltenham Baths* are for sale. It also reveals that E. Goldsmith was occupying the Lot. Also worthy of note is that Lot 2 is the site on which Spa Mill would be built some years later. In 1853 the site is a field partly covered by water indicating that the Mill had not been built by this date. It is occupied by Joseph Mitchell.

In 1841 Ezekial Goldsmith (born Suffolk 1816) is living in Farnley Leeds and working as a servant and it is probable that he came to Ossett between 1847 (when James Arnell is described as Bath proprietor) and 1851. Ezekial had married Sarah Major in Leeds in 1846. In 1854 Ezekial is recorded as bath keeper and he combined his duties with being a “Gardener” and perhaps this was a sign of the seasonal nature of the baths or that the facilities were less busy than once was the case.

In 1861, still described as gardener, Ezekiel is living at Spa House Low Common. This was the house and grounds on Spa Lane referred to in Lot 4 above. It is possible he was keeper of both baths until 1864 when the “*Cheltenham Sulphurous Baths*” were operated by John Chappell and then subsequently Henry Nettleton. Ezekiel died in Ossett in 1877 having lived at the *New Cheltenham Baths* house and grounds as the bath keeper since about 1850.

In 1858 (White’s Directory) we are informed “*on the Common there are two Spa Baths*” and the 1866 and 1870 White’s has “*On the Common are two spa baths much frequented by persons afflicted with rheumatism*” Elsewhere in 1866 the description Spa Common is used. There is no reference to the baths in 1881 Kelly but they will still have been available to the public.

In 1866 Ezekial (Hez) Goldsmith and George Shaw are recorded as “spa bath keepers” and Ezekiel is still there in 1870 when John Chappell is also a Bath Keeper. From 1864 I suspect that Ezekiel was the occupier (and perhaps the owner) of the *New Cheltenham Baths* whilst Chappell was the owner and occupier of *The Cheltenham Sulphurous Baths* .

Following Ezekial Goldsmith’s death in 1877 his widow, Mrs Sarah Goldsmith, is shown in the 1881 (Kelly’s Directory) as a Bath Proprietor at Ossett Spa. Sarah died in 1886 aged 75 and she was succeeded as bath keeper by her son in law George Riley. It seems likely that he was bath keeper at the *New Cheltenham Baths* because Henry Green is also recorded as “a bath proprietor Spa Street” and he may have been at the other baths – by then named the *Cheltenham Sulphurous baths*.

George Riley is described in the West Riding Kelly Directory as “a bath proprietor and butcher Spa Lane”. In 1881 widow Sarah Goldsmith is living on Spa Lane with her son in law George Riley and his family which included a 2 year old son named Goldsmith Riley. In 1891 George Riley is recorded as a butcher but he continues to live with his family in the house where his parents in law lived and which was also home to the Spa Bath(s). George Riley was still living there in 1914 (Ossett Burgess Rolls). He and his Goldsmith in laws had been associated with the baths for almost 70 years. There is a Dewsbury registration death record for a George Riley in 1921/1922.

The Ossett Observer (21 June 1884) carried two notices regarding the Spa Baths. The first Notice reminded readers that *Ossett Spa Baths* “are open for the season Tuesday and Friday evenings 6d each”.

The second Notice was more significant and offered for sale the *Cheltenham Sulphurous Baths*, and other property at Ossett Spa. All this property had been the subject of a Chancery Court case (Fozard v Crowther) in the matter of the estate of John Chappell deceased. The auction lot was said to comprise *a dwelling house and premises called the Cheltenham Sulphurous Baths, two dwelling houses and a Grocer's Shop, nine cottages and four parcels of land.*

A week later on 28 June 1884 the Observer carried a similar but more detailed notice advertising eight lots for sale. Lot 4 was described as "*A Dwelling House and Spa Baths called the Cheltenham Sulphurous Baths, Stable, Coach House, Greenhouses and outbuildings situate in Spa Street lately occupied by Henry Nettleton*" Other lots were also offered and these are described in the Census section later in this study.

On the 13 June 1885 the Ossett Observer carried a Notice regarding the re-opening of Old *Cheltenham Sulphurous Baths* Ossett Spa by J Marsden (proprietor of the Wakefield Turkish Baths) who announces that he "*has taken the above celebrated Sulphur Baths at Ossett for many years well known for....and other ailments. He has thoroughly cleansed and put into working order and maintains that for the efficacy and convenience they will be found surpassed by none. Slipper Sulphur baths 6d each. Refreshments supplied at reasonable rates. Good Stable Accommodation.*"

On 12th September 1891 *The New Cheltenham* baths and a dwellinghouse were offered for sale by auction in Mr WF Fox's Sale Rooms at Grove Street Dewsbury. The total area was 2 roods & 37 perches. An adjacent close of grassland comprising 2 acres 1 rood and 38 perches was also offered. The Lot was withdrawn at £625.

On 28 March 1923 Walter Goldsmith, Harold Ezekiel Goldsmith and Goldsmith Riley convey Spa House and land to Joseph Illingworth. On 5th January 1940 Joseph Illingworth conveyed the same to Charles and Godfrey Illingworth (the Partners) trading as Fellmongers on Spa Street.... "*also all that messuage or dwellinghouse known as Spa House with hot and cold Bath Houses Boiler house Stable and other buildings...formerly known as the New Cheltenham Baths formerly in the occupation of George Riley but now of the Partners in connection with their fellmongering business*"

An Abstract of Title included with the Deed reveals a little more of the history of this site;

30/10/1857 James Marchent to Ezekiel Goldsmith

16/9/1864 John Hellowell to Ezekiel Goldsmith

10/1922 Louisa Ann, Walter, Harold Ezekiel and Goldsmith Riley inherit the property

28/3/1923 Goldsmiths sell the site to Joseph Illingworth

The Deed of 1940 suggests that Spa House was still there in 1940 (though the 1933 map suggests otherwise) but it seems probable that it did not survive much beyond this date although evidence of at least at one of the Baths remained into the late 1960's.

The following report appeared in The Wakefield Express on 13th June 2007

CONFUSION over boundaries means the future still looks uncertain for an important part of Ossett's heritage .

There were fears that Ossett Spa, which dates back to 1829, had been bulldozed earlier this month when only a pile of rubble could be seen at the site, on Spa Street. Civic Society president Brian Coe spotted the remains over a barbed wire fence and it was hoped they could be preserved. Now it has emerged that part of the spa falls into land earmarked for a new warehouse and it is unclear if developers Niels Larsen would preserve it.

Mr Coe said: "The site has changed hands so many times – there is a lot of confusion over the boundaries." "I have seen at least two different plans which show different things. Whether anyone will sort this out or not I don't know. It would be a great shame if we lost the spa because of this."

Original council plans suggested the spa was completely on the warehouse site, but amended plans now show it is two thirds over – one third on neighbouring land owned by Spa Farm. And Mr Coe said a map dating back to 1914 suggested otherwise.

He said: "On the old map there seems to be a 'dog leg' around the spa. It looks like the boundaries are different." "He said the original Spa Farm deeds, which also seemed to place it on their side, added to the confusion. Once part of an ambitious plan to turn Ossett into a 'little Harrogate', the remains formerly housed four warm baths and a cold one. Until around 90 years ago people would still fill bottles with 'medicinal' spa water.

In 1894 the spa was developed into pleasure grounds. The venture was unsuccessful and the owner, Matthew Wharton, was declared bankrupt.

The wall of the small circular stone bath house was more than five feet high until 1990, when the then owner, J T Watson, reduced it to around 18ins and installed an iron gate across the entrance. The site was then bought by local business man Alan Morris.

The small circular stone bath house referred to in the report is Spa Well which once stood in the garden of Spa House. It still remains in 2010 albeit in reduced form and poor condition hidden behind an industrial unit off Spa Lane. Photographs of the Spa Well, the original source of chalybeate water for the Spa Baths, are shown overleaf.

This is all that remains of the Ossett Spa Baths venture which began, almost 200 years ago, in the 1820's.

The following page reproduces a report on the Spa Well from the Ossett Observer in 1958.

F SPA, 80 YEARS AGO



Our picture shows Mr J. Illingworth, son of Mr C. Illingworth, and one of the directors of the firm, looking into the well.

few who would have, *Controlled*

Our picture shows Mr J. Illingworth, son of Mr C. Illingworth, and one of the directors of the firm, looking into the well.

Controlled

few who would have remembered the spa's former glory are left to speak of it

On Monday afternoon our reporter Elizabeth Blakeley was invited to drink some of the water by Mr C. Illingworth, of Illingworth Brothers, who said he thought it had a sulphur content, though hastened to add he did not drink the water himself

At one time, he said, the spring water left a bright red deposit wherever it flowed, but now the deposit was bright orange.

The water, which comes to the surface in bursts, seems to contain air bubbles, and (seeing these) thoughts of underwater caverns, stalactites and stalagmites immediately sprung to mind, but the much less romantic explanation of sulphur gas bubbles is probably nearer the mark.

The flow is now controlled and for almost 40 years has filled the dam which supplies the mill with water. Mr Illingworth said he has never known the flow to decrease and when the dam is emptied for cleaning out it is refilled from the spring within about 12 hours.

So, although the spring has brought little fame to the town as healing water, it has served a very useful industrial purpose for many years.

And while stories of footbaths, and large baths, where people could be fully submerged in the water, being used in the vicinity are seldom heard today one wonders what really did happen and whether the spring water really did effect any cures all those years ago.

Fashions by—
Carnegie
Dercia,
Ester,
Hebe Sp
Harold,
Linda Le
Marbeck
Renser
Sambo,
And man
famous

B



Spa Bath Spa Lane July 2010



Spa Bath Spa Lane Sept 2010 (Photograph by Alan Howe)

Timeline - Ossett Spa Baths

1813 James Wade and William Craven each allotted land on Spa Lane by the Ossett Inclosure Order. This land was to become the site of Ossett Spa Baths

1819-1823 James Wade (Horbury Stone Mason) in land transactions suggesting he is raising funds secured against his Spa Lane land holdings. Was this to build a Spa Bath and housing? Wm Craven reported as having established his bath around this time.

1826 David Land at *New Cheltenham Baths Horbury & Ossett Spring End*. Proprietor W Craven

1827 James Wade in transaction with Doctor WB Thornton and others at Spa Lane.

1829 James Wade (Ward?) owner of Ossett Baths which is advertised to let.

1831 James Wade advertises *New Cheltenham Spa and Baths* for sale.

1832 David Land announces he has also taken the adjacent baths. The Notice is headed *The Ossett Spring End Cheltenham Baths* adding that WB Thornton MD will attend baths to give advice.

1843 Tithe Award records Mary Boyne as owner & James Arnell occupier of Cheltenham Baths land

1847 James Arnell Bath Keeper (possibly of both baths)

1853 *New Cheltenham Baths* for sale by Auction. Purchased by James Marchent . Ezekiel Goldsmith in occupation.

1857 James Marchent sells to Ezekiel Goldsmith

1858 White's Trade Directory records "*On the Common there are two Spa Baths* "

1864 *Cheltenham Sulphurous Baths* occupied by John Chappell

1866 Ezekiel Goldsmith and George Shaw recorded as spa bath keepers

1881 Sarah Goldsmith Bath keeper (Ezekiel died 1877) & Henry Green Bath keeper

1886 Sarah Goldsmith dies.

1891 Sarah's son in law George Riley living at Spa House

1914 George Riley living at Spa House

1923 Site of Bath sold by Riley's beneficiaries to Joseph Illingworth

1940 Joseph Illingworth sells to Charles and Godfrey Illingworth Fellmongers

1960's Remains of a bath and Spa Well still exist

1990 Spa Well walls reduced in height

2007 Industrial Unit built close to east boundary of Spa Well

The Fleece Inn

Early licence was under the Licensing Act, 1828. (Wines & Spirits &c. - On or Off)

Auctioned early 1888, including 4 acres of land, fetched £750.

Again auctioned later in 1888, excluding most of the land (used for Sewage Works) and went for £345.

Location Spa Street, Ossett Low Common

Owners.

1870 Henry Giggal, Joseph Brook, George Teal (Rates Record)
 1872 Wm. Clayton
 1886 Joseph Charles Gill, Handley, Nr. Manchester
 Later Frederick Dews, Ossett
 1888 Ossett cum Gawthorpe Local Board (Wanted the land for sewage works) (June)
 1888 Ezra Dews (Sept)
 1889 William Bamford (Rates Record)
 1891 Joshua Tetley & Son
 Allied Breweries (UK) Ltd., 107 Station Road, Burton on Trent (mid-1960's)
 Century Inns
 Enterprise Inns

Licensees.

1830	Joseph Ellis		
1837	Joseph Shaw (here until 1841 at least)		
1842	Joseph Crossley		
1847	Thomas Driver (still here in 1848)		
1850	Benjamin Fothergill (still here in 1868) Fined 10/- in 1868 for offence - first in the 18 yrs he has been landlord.		
1870	Joseph Smith (Still here in 1871. Census shows "Slubber & Publican")		
1878	James Dews (Nov) (still here in 1881)		
?	James Craven		
1886	William Deboo [according to Licensing Record - I think it means "Dews"].(Nov)	1952	Dennis Guy
1887	James Craven (Mar)	1959	Joan Armitage
1888	William Henry Thickett (May)	1961	Mary Buckley (Note 26)
1889	John William Ingham (Jan)	1966	Ronald Walker (Note 27)
1889	Joseph Smith (Mar)	1975	Leslie Woolley
1889	Frederick Dews (Aug)	1986	Michael Roy Hartley
1891	Arthur Cocker (Nov)	1988	Wilfred Brian Gudgeon
1900	Joseph Needham Pollard	1991	Michael Manders
1903	William White	1995	Colleen Eastwood
1915	Harvey Armitage (or could be "Henry") (May)	1998	David John Radley Lee (& Barbara)
1928	Walter Taylor		
1930	Fred Mitchell	2001	Christine & Michael David Poole
1933	Albert Guy		
1941	Jessie Guy		

Note the presence of the members of the Dews family both here and at The Spa Inn.(overleaf) Frederick and Ezra were sons of Edward Dews and would take over the running of Spa Mill after Edward's death in 1890. Note also Henry Giggale, Joseph Brook and George Teal who were owners in 1870 and also were partners in the adjacent Hope Mill. Henry Giggale emigrated to America in 1874 and his descendants live in Philadelphia

Spa Inn

Location Spa Street

Owners

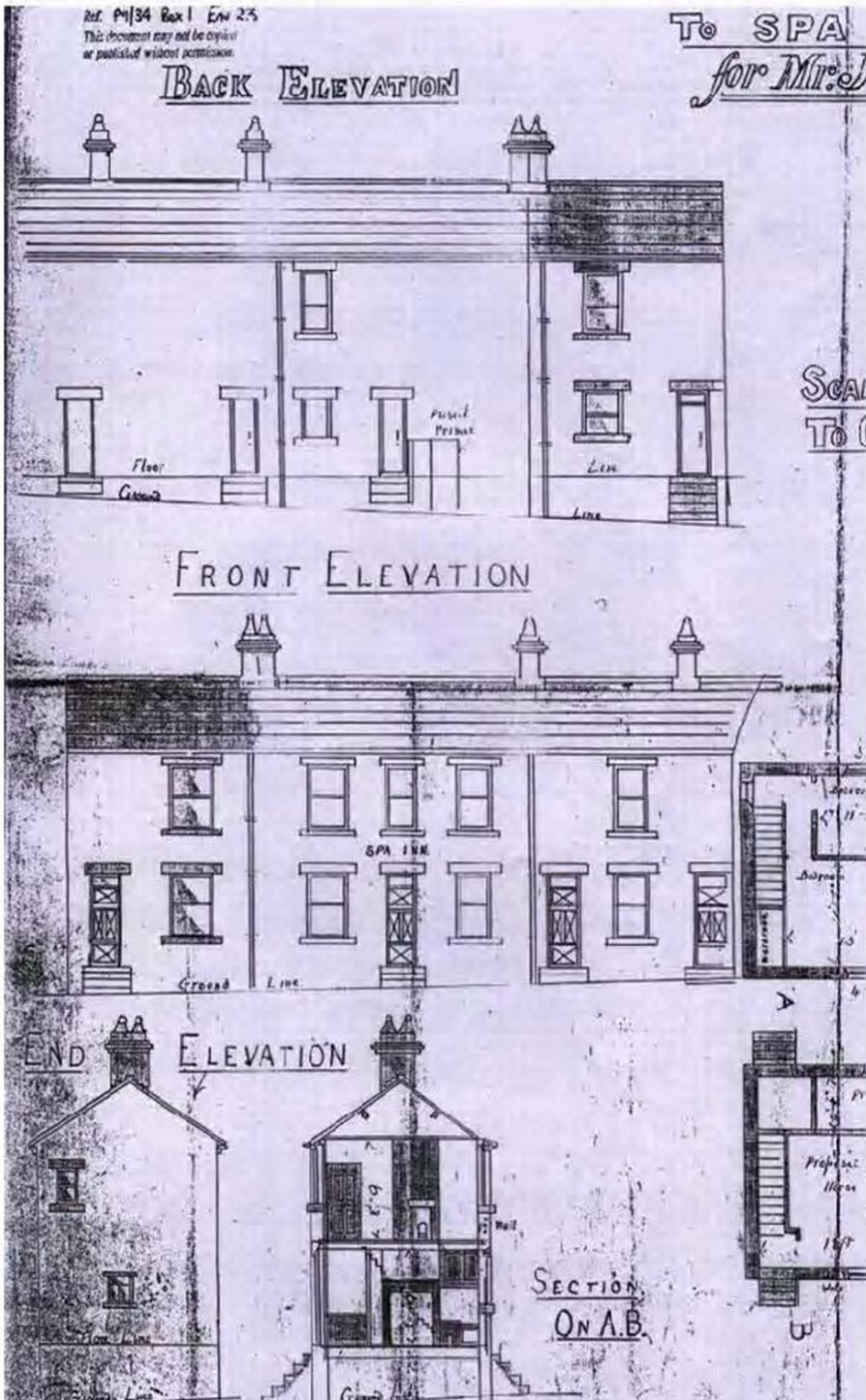
1870 John Chappell (Rates Record)
by 1877 Beverley Brothers, Eagle Brewery, Wakefield
1889 James Dews Trustees (Rates Record)
by 1894 Sarah Dews, of Ossett
1901 James Dews Exors. (Rates Record)
1903 Mary Dews
1905 (Ossett Rates Demand) – James Dews Exec.'s
1909 Sarah Dews
1912 John Calvert
1921 John Smith's Tadcaster Brewery Co., Ltd

Licensees.

1866 Andrew Wilby
1868 Joseph Nightingale (Note 86)
1871 Joseph Nightingale (Census, - Coal Miner and Beerhouse Keeper)
1871 William Hardy (Mid-1871)
1874 John Fawcett (Note 87)
1877 John Giggall
1879 Joseph Bowers (Jan)
1879 Leyson Javens (Aug)
1880 John Hall (Jul) (still here in 1881)
By 1888 Frederick Dews
1889 John Ringwood (Rates Record)
1889 James Mark Walker (Nov)
1890 Eliza Glover (May) (Note 88)
1896 Thomas Webster (still here in 1905)
1907 Alfred Whiteley (Aug)
1908 John George Riding (Jan)
1909 John Edward Bowker (Aug) (Note 89)
1911 Newman Summerscales (Mar)
1912 John Calvert (Aug) (Note 90)
1919 James Henry Beaver
1922 John Robert Smith (Oct)
1923 Edith Smith (Oct)
1926 Thomas Maloney
1928 Herbert Stocks
1929 George Henry Usher
1931 Amelia Beck (Oct)
1932 Hartley Townend (Jul)
1935 Frank Chamblor

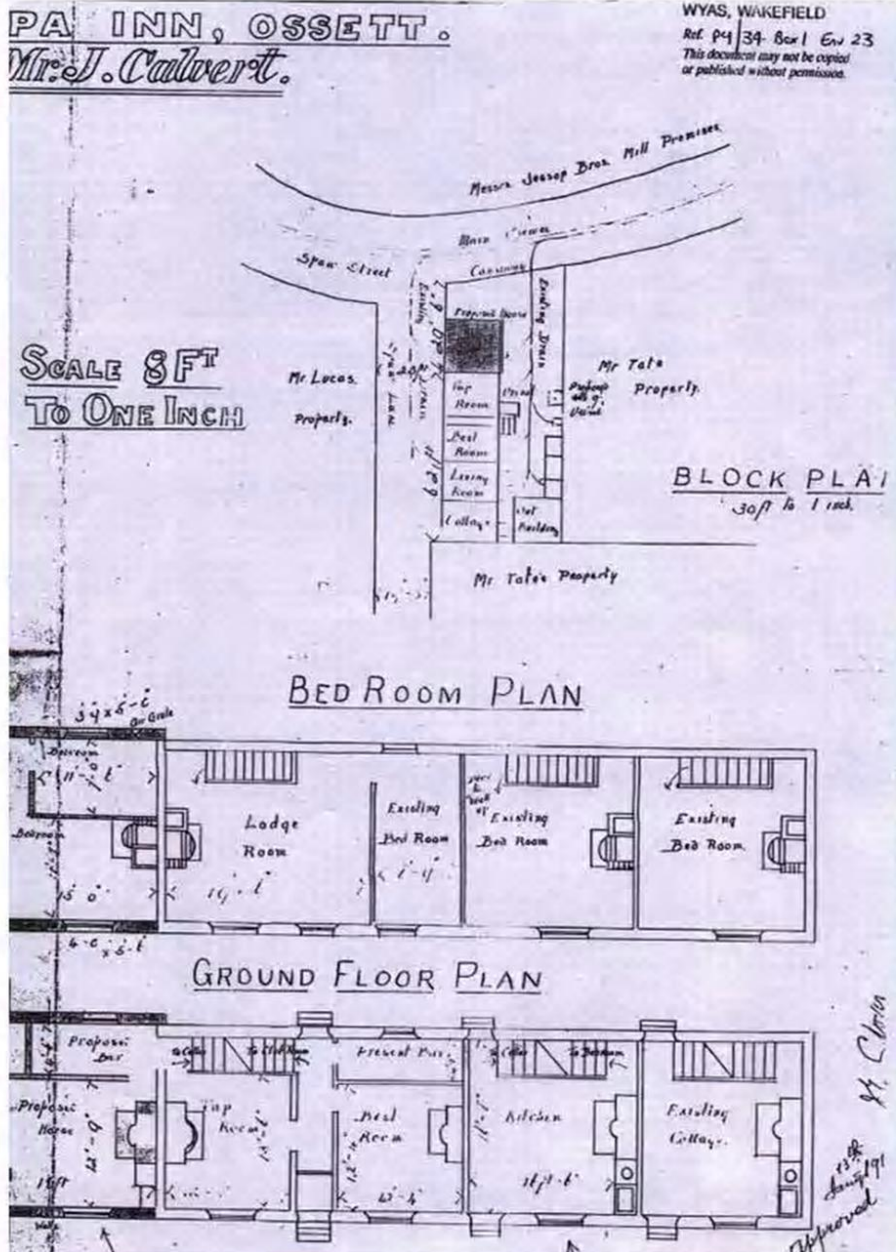
LICENCE EXPIRED ON THE 31st. DECEMBER 1937

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at approx 90% to fit this page.



Plan 1 of the Spa Inn.

Copied courtesy of the West Yorkshire Archive Service Headquarters. Ref. P9/34 Box 1 Env. 23
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Plan 2 of the Spa Inn.

A History of Emmerson Mill (Spring Field Mill) - Courtesy of John Goodchild

OLD WEST RIDING:
VOL 1 No 2
1981

SPRING END: THE EARLIEST WELL-DOCUMENTED WEST RIDING SCRIBBLING MILL

John Goodchild

The township of Ossett cum Gawthorpe – a scatter of small hamlets as it then was, with a population of some 3424 in 1801 (1) – was the location of one of the very earliest scribbling mills in the West Riding textile area, and perhaps the only such early mill which is reasonably well documented (2). The mill lay in the extreme south eastern corner of the township, the cloth-producing townships of Alverthorpe cum Thornes and Horbury bounding the very plot on which the mill was built (3).

The mill at Spring End was built by a partnership consisting of Joshua Thornes, an Ossett tummy (worsted cloth) manufacturer and John Emmerson, an Ossett master handloom weaver (4). Thornes presumably would have no personal trade use for the new mill and does not appear in the surviving lists of customers, or indeed in the ratebooks in connection with it (5); presumably he only put capital into it. It was probably this Joshua Thornes who died in October, 1838 aged 85 (6). Emmerson was however a user of the mill and by 1782 he had been joined in its working by James Mitchell (died February, 1820 aged 80) (7) and John Oakes, both further Ossett master clothiers. From 1781, (earlier rate books and Land Tax returns do not survive), Mitchell and Emmerson are listed as the mill's tenants (8), although Emmerson was the owner of the land, and in 1783 he raised money on the mill site and adjoining land by a mortgage from Miss Ann Norton (9), probably she of that name who was then owner of the Kettlethorpe Hall estate near Wakefield (10).

The earliest known reference to a water-powered scribbling machine in the West Riding occurs in January 1779 and the mill at Ossett now under consideration, later known as Spring End Mill and later still as Spring Field Mills, had such machinery by 1781. The surviving documentation states that the mill cost £343. 17. 8 in building, and from the time of its opening it was managed in yearly cycles by the partners in it:

1781-82	James Mitchell
1782-83	John Oakes
1783-84	James Mitchell
1784-85	John Emmerson.

The partners were so unused to the keeping of accounts that when one of their number (John Oakes) became a bankrupt, it was necessary for a Wakefield lawyer to reduce their accounts to a comprehensible form and it is on these rationalised accounts that the early part of this essay is based. They show, as one would anticipate, the purchase of small quantities of oil, resin, candles and coals for the mill, the payment of rates and the occasional buying of flocks; five shillings a year was paid for rent for part of the mill wheel's goit and £25 rent was paid to Emmerson for the premises.

Willeying and scribbling were the processes carried out at the mill in the earlier 1780s: in the year to August 1784 scribbling work brought in £55. 17. 8½ out of a total income of £63. 18. 2½, £7. 16. 6 being received for willeying work and four shillings for the sale of old cards. In that same year something over 25% of the scribbling income came from work done for outsiders, the remainder from work undertaken for the partners individually. In the following sixteen month period the willey was repaired, a water-course was widened, the cut to the dam broadened and the mill wheel repaired. In that year willeying brought in £14. 17. 3, while scribbling brought £50. 19. 0. In the former period, blue, mixed and copper were the colours in 1784-85. In about 1785 the three cylinders of the willeying machine were repaired and re-covered with cards; the original cylinders had been made by John Jubb the well-known millwright and machine maker of Churwell and later of Leeds. The largest cylinder (the "Great Swift" or "Breast" or "Doffer") was 40in. long by 19ft. in circumference, the middle one (the "Little Swift") 40in. by 9ft. and the smallest ("Least") 40in. by 7ft. 6in. The cylinders carried 50 pairs of cards (at 80 wires), 24 pairs (at 70 wires) and 21 pairs (at 70 wires) respectively. There were apparently other cylinders involved with the mill's machinery. When the three willey cylinders were brought back after recovering they were carried to the mill by sledge, presumably on account of the state of the roads, covered with sheets and old cards to protect them, covered with sheets and old cards to protect them. The financial affairs of the mill partnership overall were summarised as follows:

Year	Outgoings £	Income £
1780-81	343. 17. 8(cost of mill building)	not stated
1781-82	not stated	142
1782-83	not stated	not stated
1783-84	72. 14. 0½	63. 18. 2½
1784-85 (16 months)	182. 1. 6	65. 16. 3

The partners had some difficulties in and from 1785, when the partner John Oakes became a bankrupt with total liabilities of £127. 5. 10. Emmerson, however, was at this period concerned as a prime promoter of the provision of cloth fulling facilities at the new Ossett Mill; he subscribed £50 towards its erection and his partner in the Spring End Mill, James Mitchell, was also a subscriber in 1786. Emmerson's share in the Ossett Mill Company was retained by him until sold in February 1801 (11).

The mill apparently continued to be run on a partner-

ship basis: close to it, in fact just across the Horbury boundary, another mill was built in 1790-91 (12), at which the fulling of cloth was undertaken (13). This process demanded more power than the small stream which powered the older mill could provide, and in any case the amount of fall between the mills was very small: a deed of 1791, relating to the new mill, refers to the "Steam Engine Shops and Buildings lately erected and built there (12), and the Emmerson partnership ventured into the provision of a stronger and more constant source of power when they had a steam engine built and cloth fulling was added to the processes carried out there in about 1797 (13). In the year from April 1796 the numbers of broad woollen cloths fulled in the mills of the immediate vicinity was as follows:

Ossett [Healey Old] Mill	8274
Wakefield Upper	4439
Silcoates	1234
Netherton	1010
Ford [Horbury Bridge]	598
Spring End	334
Alverthorpe	261
Wakefield Lower	208 (14).

In March 1798, David Emmerson of Ossett, cloth-maker, agreed to sell his share in "The Spring End Mill Fire Engine and all its Appurtenances" to David Dews of Ossett, another clothier, for £200 and in the July of the following year (1799) Dews was one of six Ossett clothiers who joined with John Emmerson in agreeing to work "All that large Building or Scribbling Mill, called Spring End Mill" and near Ossett Common, with "the Dam, Goit, Watercourses" and some 3¼ acres of nearby land, all then in the partners' occupation: power was included to use the steam engine, fulling stocks, machinery and drying house. The agreement was to last for eighteen years and was subject to the payment of £95. 10. 0 per annum rent to Emmerson. The partnership's shares were in sixteenths, all shares being held, in fact, in eighths, except for one which was subdivided. The steam engine and the machinery were the property of the co-partners rather than of Emmerson as landlord. In December 1800, a sixteenth share was sold to trustees Miss Frances Eastwood of Horbury, one of the trustees being the James Eastwood of Horbury who owned the nearby mill in Horbury township (12); the consideration price was £150.

Under the Ossett Inclosure Award of 1813 (15), Emmerson was awarded land and the site of the mill dam, which was an encroachment on the (Wakefield) manorial estate; he had remarried at Horbury Church in 1804. In 1811 an inquest was held in Ossett township on a thirteen year old boy killed at Spring End Mill by his hand being caught as he was putting wool into the machinery, and in about 1821 Benjamin Emmerson & Co. still worked the mill (17). A valuation survey of 1819 refers to Emmerson's tenancy (under Sarah Emmerson) of "Cottages, Mill, Fold Dams and Goit" and nearby land (18). The buildings were sub-

sequently let by Emmerson's executors to Wheatley, Overend and Collet[t], who in about 1834 employed twenty two males and seventeen females (and possibly others between 18 and 21 years of age), nineteen of the employees being under sixteen. Specific reference is made to the slubbers employed (18). By that time (and again in 1837) the mill had an engine; the earliest engine, considering the amount of the capital involved in the mill, had probably been of the water-raising variety. An 1837 rating valuation describes the "Mill, with Engine House, Willey Rooms, Dryhouse, etc." and implies that some extensions were taking place: "The New part, not being finished, is not valued" (8). For some time in the 1840s the mill stood untenanted (19), but it was occupied again by 1847, as a scribbling and fulling mill, by Thomas Phillips (20). Subsequent to his death, Spring End Mill became the subject of a Chancery suit and in September 1856, together with other nearby property, it was offered for sale by auction, the mill property being described in the printed sale particulars as, "All that Stone & Brick-built Mill, covered with Grey Slate, partly Two Storeys and partly Three Storeys high, with Enginehouse, Boilerhouse, and Warehouses adjoining". The engine in use was then of 30 hp and the mill machinery consisted of seven carding machines, a tenterhook willey, two pairs of spinning mules and "all necessary preparing machines" (9).

By 1861 the mill had become a cotton cloth manufactory, run by the Bacup-based Lancashire and Yorkshire Cotton Manufacturing and Mining Co. Ltd., a company registered in 1860 and formed for the "spinning, weaving, and otherwise manufacturing for sale of raw cotton, silk, and yarn, at Ossett Spa" and elsewhere as selected, for establishing gas light works for the mills and for acquiring and working coal or other mines, for farming, etc. The capital was to be £100,000 in £10 shares. The company was still working Spring End Mill at the time of the preparation of the West Riding trade directory published in 1867; the original partners were all Bacup men except for David Lee, a manufacturer at Earlsheaton, the village adjoining to Ossett (21). A yet further steam engine, of 25 hp, had been put into the mill by its new owners in 1860 (22).

By the end of the 1860s, in fact in January 1869, the mill was let to John Robinson (earlier of Silcoates Mill near Wakefield?) as a worsted spinning mill; he gave up the tenancy in June 1871 and the mill was sold to Henry Oakes, worsted spinner (21), who had been in partnership earlier at Flanshaw Mill near Wakefield (23). Oakes's machinery in the mill was advertised for sale in January 1882 (24) and the next occupier, Albert Mitchell (as M. Mitchell & Sons) failed during the great depression. His rag-grinding machinery and stock were advertised for sale in March 1884 (25). The mill had again changed trade, on this occasion to the locally ubiquitous trade of mungo and merino manufacturing.

A period of disuse may have followed, as the mill is difficult to trace in the trade directories of the later 1870s and the '80s; in the mid '90s it was being worked by Jessop Bros., whose net sales figures in the

last years of the nineteenth century were:

1896-97	£17,135.12.	6
1897-98	22,575.	8. 4
1898-99	27,922.	6. 6
1899-1900	25,645.17.	10 for a nine-month period

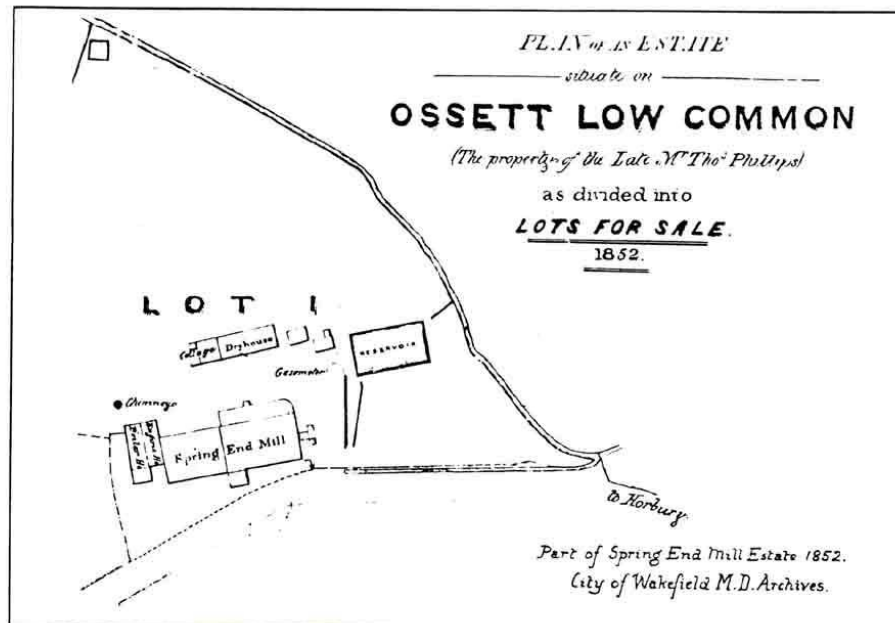
The firm became in 1900 part of the new Extract Wool & Merino Co. Ltd. (26), and by the date of the last West Riding trade directory, that of 1936, Jessop Bros. and Eli Townend, as a branch of the Extract etc. Co., were mungo manufacturers at Springfield Mills (27). The successive revisions of the 25 in. Ordnance Survey sheets, in 1905, 1913 and 1931 show the mills' physical extension, largely apparently by the erection of shedding (28).

It is apparently unusual that so much documentation should survive in relation to this small but very early purpose-built scribbling mill. Unfortunately, very little of any historical interest now remains upon the ground at the site, which is owned by a firm of major estate developers. It is curious that the local newspaper should refer to the mill in 1883 as Black Engine Mill (29), a title which does not appear in any other surviving references to it which have come to the writer's attention.

REFERENCES

- 1 Abstract of Answers and Returns, ordered to be printed 1802, p. 433.
- 2 DT Jenkins, The West Riding Textile Industry 1770-1835, p. 208.
- 3 6in OS, Yorkshire sheet 248, surveyed 1849-51.

- 4 City of Wakefield MD Archives Goodchild Loan MSS. (hereafter cited as WAG.). Leatham & Co. MSS., Colvard drafts: Spring End Mill MSS. References below not assigned to any other source are from these papers.
- 5 WAG., Ossett rating and taxation MSS.
- 6 Dewsbury Parish Magazine, Inscriptions in the Church and Churchyard, n.d.
- 7 Dewsbury Parish Magazine, *op. cit.*
- 8 WAG., Ossett rating and taxation MSS.
- 9 WAG., sale particulars bundle 40.
- 10 WAG., Grantley MSS.
- 11 Leeds Mercury 26.1.1779. WAG., Leatham & Co. MSS., Colvard drafts: Ossett Mill MSS.
- 12 WAG., Spring End Mill (Horbury) MSS.
- 13 West Yorkshire County Archives, West Riding Quarter Sessions Order Books.
- 14 WAG., misc. textiles MSS.
- 15 WAG., Inclosure MSS., duplicated copy of Ossett Inclosure Award.
- 16 Leeds Mercury 26.1.1811.
- 17 E. Baines and W. Parson, History etc. of Yorkshire, vol. 1, 1822, p. 570.
- 18 Factories Inquiry, Supplementary Report pt. 2 (Session 1834, vol. 20), pp. 280-281.
- 19 WAG., Ossett rating and taxation MSS. Undated survey of Ossett.
- 20 W. White, Directory of West Riding Clothing Districts, 1847, p. 358.
- 21 WAG., Lancashire and Yorkshire Cotton Mfg. etc. Co. MSS.
- 22 WAG., Ossett new erections lists.
- 23 John Goodchild, A Wool Trail in the Wakefield District (publication with printer).
- 24 Ossett Observer 28.1.1882.
- 25 Ossett Observer, 1.3.1884.
- 26 WAG., Extract Wool and Merino Co. MSS.
- 27 Kelly's Directory of West Riding, 1936, p. 458.
- 28 Copies of these sheets in Wakefield MD Libraries HQ., Dept. of Archives and Local Studies.
- 29 Ossett Observer, 3.11.1883.



John Goodchild's history above makes reference to the Lancashire & Yorkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company Ltd. The following Notice (Leeds Mercury 28 April 1860) describes the Company and invites applications for shares. The history also indicates that the land was subject to a Chancery case in 1856 and that the Company bought the Mill in 1860. What may not have been clear at the time of the research was that the Company bought the Mill and other land and property nearby from a James Marchent of Bowling Bradford on 8th December 1860 (WYAS Deed 1860 WE 683 729). Marchent had purchased the land only a few years earlier and previously he had been in a milling partnership in Bradford but this had been dissolved in 1857 (see Spa Mill later). One of his partners was a John Cole and he is also mentioned in the above Deed as an associate of the Company or perhaps as a part funder.

Of more significance is that the Deed also refers to the sale to the Company of land to the south of Spa Lane i.e. land upon which Spa Mills was built.. The Notice below refers to the premises to be purchased "...comprise two new and one old mill". The old mill is Spring End Mill and the new mills are those to the south of Spa Lane and comprise Spa Mill (or Mills) and the Dyeworks buildings. It suggests that the Cotton Company's venture into Ossett was much more significant than was previously thought and that it was to include three Mills on the Spa and not exclusively Spring End Mill.

The Cotton venture was short lived and in 1871 the Company sold Spring End Mill to Henry Oakes (WYAS Deed 1871 669 4 3) and in 1872 the Company sold the Spa Mill(s) to Edward Dews (WYAS Deed 1872 673 165 176 and 1872 673 168 178)

**THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE
COTTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY—Limited.**
Capital £100,000, in 10,000 Shares of £10 each.

This Company is formed to carry on the business of Cotton Spinning and Manufacturing in all its departments.

The premises intended to be purchased by this Company are situate about half a mile from Horbury and about the same distance from Ossett, in Yorkshire, have been built expressly for the spinning of cotton, and comprise two new and one old mill, with three boilers, three engines, shafting, warehouses, offices, and every convenience. The whole of these premises comprise (including the site of the said buildings) about 5½ acres of land, full of excellent clay for the purpose of brick-making, free from any chief rent, land or other tax, except about £1 6s. 8d. per year, are within about a mile from Horbury Station, and situate in a neighbourhood where coals are cheap, and within a few hundred yards of these mills, and where labour is plentiful.

The profits of this concern will, it is presumed, be on an average of from 25 to 30 per cent.

The Executive Committee will comprise practical workmen, well versed in each department, so as to insure the most economical working of the concern.

Application for shares may be made to, and further information obtained of, Mr. William Hoyle, grocer, New Church-road; Mr. William Tagg, draper, Rochdale-road, Bacup; or of Mr. James Raby, innkeeper, Peel's Hotel, Bury, Lancashire; or of Mr. William Sykes, manufacturer, Church-street; Mr. Richard Greenwood, agent, Flatts, Dewsbury; Mrs. Richardson, innkeeper, Horbury; or of Mr. James Stephenson, Temperance Hotel, Broad-street, Halifax, Yorkshire.

D 6375

Ginns Mill or Hope Mill – Spa Street

Ginn's Mill subsequently known as Hope Mill was situated on the north side of The Fleece Public House with a frontage to Spa Street. In 1813 the land on which the Mill would be built appears to be allotted, in parts, to Joshua Wilby, David Emmerson and Mark Scott. There appears to be some buildings on the site in 1813.

The Mill was probably built as a worsted mill between 1819 and 1824 as the 1819 Rate Valuation record includes no reference but the 1824 Rate Assessment records the existence of the mill. The first owner and occupier was Joseph Brook(e) and after his death in 1829-1830 ownership passed first to his widow and then to his trustees, then his assignees and his executors. His widow, Jane Brook(e), is shown in occupation in the 1830-1831 Rate Books and the Wakefield and Halifax Journal of 13 July 1832 carried a notice for its sale.

Between 1832 and 1837-1838, Joseph Rhodes, a worsted and yarn manufacturer was the occupier (White's Directory 1838 and the 1837 Rate Book). It seems likely that the mill was sold to Joseph Ginn, corn miller in 1840-1841 and The Tithe Award 1843 records Ginn as owner and occupier of the land. The 1850 map records the Mill with the name "*Ginns Mill (corn)*".

In 1832 Ossett paid £3500 to The Lord of the Manor for release "from their obligations", including a requirement to take their corn to the Lord's Soke Mill in Wakefield to be ground. It seems probable that the Mill was altered in the late 1830's/early 1840's from the original worsted manufactory to a corn mill in response to these changes. A Deed, reproduced below, is dated December 1865 and suggests that the Mill began its life as a worsted manufactory.

The following sale particulars appeared in the Leeds Mercury on 29 June 1850. The reference in the Notice to Joseph Gum should read Ginn. The 1841 Census shows 51 year old Joseph Ginn, Corn Miller, and his family living on Low Common.

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,
all that capital STEAM MILL, now used as a Corn Mill, with the MESSUAGE or Dwelling-house, outbuildings, and close of grass land adjoining, all which premises are situate at Ossett Common, near Wakefield, and contain an area of 2A. 2R. 6P or thereabouts, and are now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Gum, corn miller. The premises are freehold, and are well supplied with water. The mill is in excellent repair, and is fitted up with every requisite for a complete corn mill, and may, at a trivial expense, be converted into a woollen or worsted mill. For further particulars apply to Mr. MACKIE, corn merchant, Wakefield; or Mr. JAMES WHITHAM, Solicitor, Wakefield.

Joseph Ginn was the son of Thomas Ginn and Mary. He was born in 1791 and was baptised in The New or Zion Chapel Wakefield. Joseph was the brother of Abraham Ginn a corn miller of Kirkgate and Quebec Street (1829 Wakefield Trade Directory) and of Westgate (1834).

Joseph Gomersal bought the Steam Mill (probably in response to the 1850 notice) from Joseph Ginn and continued to operate it as a corn mill (Daily News 8th June 1859) until about 1862 (Ossett Rate Valuation) . Gomersal leased out the mill for some of this period; in 1856 the Wakefield Express (19 April) reports Edward Walshaw as having recently rented the mill and the 1861 Census records Edward Whittaker, corn miller, living adjacent to The Fleece. Two doors away the Census records James Fryer as a corn miller employing 3 men.

In September 1865 the Wakefield Express carried a notice for the sale by auction of the corn mill's plant and as the following Deed demonstrates Henry Giggie, George Teal and William Brook acquired the Mill in 1865 and changed the use to a flock manufactory . This was Giggie's previous trade and it seems likely that he was renting the premises by late summer 1865 (Ossett Observer 19 August 1865). He and colleagues were to purchase the mill shortly afterwards;

"DEED DATED 5 December 1865 registered at 11 in the forenoon; A memorial to be registered as an Indenture made the 1st December 1865; BETWEEN Joshua Taylor of Gomersal Cloth Merchant and William Broadbent of Cleckheaton Grocer, Joseph Gomersal Maltster late of Spen now of Leeds & William Brooke and Henry Giggie both of Horbury Cloth Manufacturers and George Teall of Bradford Wool Sorter

*of and concerning all that messuage or Dwellinghouse with cottages Barn Stable and other outbuildings Gardens Close of land and appurtenances thereto belonging AND also all that Building formerly used as a Worsted Manufactory afterwards as a Corn Mill but at the date of the now memorialising Indenture as a Flock Manufactory with the warehouse and shops and other buildings thereto adjoining and belonging which said Messuage Cottage Mill Warehouse Shops Barn Stables and other outbuildings Garden Close of Land and premises are situate at Ossett and occupy a site of 2 acres 2 roods and 6 perches(to be the same more or less) and were formerly in the tenure or occupation of Joseph Brooke then of Jane Brooke afterwards of Joseph Rhodes then of the said **Joseph Ginn** late of the said Joseph Gomersal but at the date of the now memorialising Indenture of the said William Brooke Henry Giggie and George Teall and Mrs Jane Mitchell widow and George Henry White also all or so much and such part or parts as is or are affixed to the freehold of the nature of real estate of the Steam Engine Boiler Machinery Shafting Going Gear Mill Stones Gasometer Gas Apparatus and fixtures respectively erected in or used with the said Mill and premises (but exclusive of all other machinery used in or about same)....."*

Simultaneously William Henry and George entered into another deed and became mortgagors and borrowed money (unspecified in amount) from Henry Oakes of Old Hall near Wakefield, Gentleman. Also on 21 March 1868 Henry Oakes is replaced as mortgagee by an Alfred Smith and Susannah Williamson. This deed is largely the same as the above except that William Brooke is described as "a painter"

The Deed reveals that the site contained *"warehouse and shops and other buildings ... Messuage Cottage Mill Warehouse Shops Barn Stables and other outbuildings Garden Close of Land and premises"* and that the contents comprised *"Steam Engine Boiler Machinery Shafting Going Gear Mill Stones Gasometer Gas Apparatus and fixtures respectively erected in or used with the said Mill"* and the whole extended to 2 acres 2 roods and 6 perches (just over 2.5 acres). Not only then was this a site of a Mill building but it also contained a dwelling house and cottage together with a barn, stables, a garden and a close of land.

Henry Giggle and his partners purchased Ginns Mill in December 1865. Earlier, in May 1865, Henry announced the dissolution of his business partnership based in nearby Horbury (Leeds Mercury 6th May 1865). The Notice is shown below.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the **PARTNERSHIP** heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned **HENRY GIGGLE** and **JOHN LEECH BARBER**, carrying on business at Horbury, near Wakefield, in the county of York, as flock manufacturers, under the style or firm of "Giggle and Barber," was dissolved on the Eighteenth day of April inst. All debts due to and owing by the said late firm are to be paid and received by the said Henry Giggle. Dated this Twenty-ninth day of April, One thousand eight hundred and sixty five.

Witness—
Edmund Holt, Solicitor, Horbury.

HY. GIGGLE.
JOHN LEECH BARBER,
G 8126

There are further references to Henry Giggle and Hope Mill in the late 1860's and early 1870's the first of which (dated 29 November 1869) suggests to the writer that not all was well with the business;

A Memorial to be registered as an Indenture bearing the date 29 November 1869 Between Henry Giggle , William Brooke and George Teall all of Ossett Flock manufacturers and co partners in trade the said William Brooke carrying on business there on his own private account as a Painter (thereinafter called the Debtors) of the first part

Frederick Dykes of Wakefield Bank Manager Frank Mitchell of Batley Carr Rag merchant Samuel Goodall Flock Dealer (thereinafter called the trustees) of the second part and the several persons and firms who are creditors of the said Debtors either in respect of their joint or separate estates of the third part

Of and concerning All and every hereditament and real estate situate in Ossett Horbury or elsewhere of or to which the said Debtors are jointly or separately...entitled and also all and every the (sic) personal estate and effects whatsoever.....

And on 21 March 1871 another Deed was registered which shows the same as the above except that " the directors of the Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bank" join the parties to the second part. The property is still occupied by Henry, George and William.

And in a deed dated 9 September 1872 George and Henry are described as "rag dealers and flock manufacturers" William is " painter, rag dealer and flock merchant". This deed also seems to have Henry and his partners selling a very small piece of land at " Spring End" for the purposes of a "new street"(could this be connected with the development of the local sewerage works?) and another piece of land at Horbury is added in to the Deed . This latter piece was allocated by the Horbury Inclosure Order 1815 and was previously in the ownership of the Duke of Leeds (who was at that time the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield)

On 2nd March 1872 the Leeds Mercury carried a notice (overleaf) regarding the sale of the Mill though it seems that Giggle and Teal were the vendors. There is no mention of William Brooke in the sale notice.

Spring End, Horbury.
By Messrs. HOWGATE and BEAUMONT, at the house of Mr. B. Brook, the Coopers' Arms Inn, in Ossett, in the county of York, on Monday, the Fourth day of March, 1872, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions (unless previously disposed of by private contract),

ALL those Five DWELLING-HOUSES, with the LAND adjoining, situate at Spring End, in Horbury, in the county of York, containing 1,030 superficial square yards (more or less), as the same are now or late were in the occupation of William Mitchell, Hezekiah Sykes, Lydia Butterworth, James Early, and William Dutoit. Subject to the life estate of the said Lydia Butterworth (aged 76 last December) in the dwelling-house in her occupation.

The land is suitable for building purposes. The buildings are in good repair, and may be viewed on application to Mr. Wm. Mitchell, on the premises.

The property is of the tenure of freehold and copyhold undistinguished of the manor of Wakefield, and compounded for.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Wm. Mitchell, the owner, or to us at our offices, Bank-buildings, Wakefield.

Wakefield, 13th Feb., 1872. STEWART and SON, Solicitors.
G 8128

Ossett Low Common and Spring End, in Horbury, near Wakefield.
Valuable Flock Mill and Land for Sale.

By Messrs. HOWGATE and BEAUMONT, at the house of Mr. B. Brooke, the Coopers' Arms Inn, Ossett, on Monday, the Fourth day of March, 1872, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions (unless previously disposed of by private contract),

THE following very Valuable ESTATES, namely,
Lot 1, at OSSETT LOW COMMON.

All those TWO DWELLING-HOUSES situate at Ossett Low Common aforesaid (formerly in one dwelling-house), and now in the occupation of Mr. Henry Giggie and Mr. George Teale.

Also all that FLOCK MILL, three-storied Warehouse, New Shed, New Office, and Outbuildings thereto belonging. Also the Steam Engine, of 20-horse power, Boiler, and Driving Wheel used for working the said mill, and the Gasometer and other apparatus for supplying the said mill and premises with gas.

Also the Field of GRASS LAND situate adjoining the before-described premises, all now in the occupation of Messrs. Giggie, Brooke, and Teale, the owners.

The mill is three stories high, and is abundantly supplied with water from the beck running through this lot.

The site of the premises occupies an area of 2A. 2R. 6P. or thereabouts.

Lot 2, at SPRING END, in HORBURY

All that Piece of GARDEN LAND situate at Spring End, in Horbury aforesaid, containing 1,200 square yards, fronting to the highway from Ossett Low Common, situate a short distance from lot 1, and now in the occupation of John Fletcher. This lot is admirably adapted for building purposes.

Lot 1 is of freehold tenure, and immediate possession may be had.

Lot 2 is freehold and copyhold, compounded for of the Manor of Wakefield, and undistinguished.

Part of the purchase money, for either lot, may remain on security if required, and for further particulars apply to Messrs. Giggie, Brooke, and Teale (the owners); to the Auctioneers, Southgate, Wakefield; or at the offices of

HARRISON and SMITH, or } Solicitors,
STEWART and SON, } Wakefield.

Wakefield, 30th January, 1872. G 2180

The first part of the above notice refers to land and property at Spring End is shown for interest but the second and third parts show Henry Giggie seeking to dispose of his land interests.

The Notice informs us that by 1872 there was only one dwelling on the site (in 1865 there was a messuage and a cottage) and that this was divided into two homes to house the Mill partners and their families. The 1871 Census suggests that Giggie and Teal were living there. We are also told that the Mill was 3 storeys high.



In July 1874 Henry Giggle his wife, Ann (nee Haigh), and three children set out from Horbury Bridge Station for Liverpool where they boarded the Steamer SS Britannic and sailed, in steerage, for New York arriving there on 6th July 1874. Henry continued his trade in the cloth business in the USA and he died in Philadelphia Pennsylvania on 13 June 1901.

The photograph opposite is thought to be Henry Giggle born in Horbury in 1834.(photograph courtesy of Steve Hahn, Philadelphia USA,2010).

Back in Ossett in 1881 William Brooke his wife and four children, aged between 14 and 19, are living on "Spa Road" most probably at the dwellinghouse adjacent to Hope Mill. Brooke is described as a wool extractor employing 6 men 3 boys 3 women and 3 girls. His four children are employed as wool extractors. A Rate Valuation list for 1880 describes William Brook as the owner and occupier of the Mill.

A fire damaged the mill in May 1887 (Ossett Observer 14 May 1887) and William Brook's subsequent planning application for two rag machine rooms was approved by the Ossett Local Board of Health as reported by the Wakefield Express on 20 August 1887. The Ossett Observer on 5 November 1887 reported the bankruptcy of wool extractor William Brook noting that the subsequent creditors' meeting had heard that he had been in business for twenty-five years and that he had been insolvent in 1876. Perhaps this was why he was not named in the sale particulars in 1874.

By 1889 Albert Metcalfe and Co. occupied the mill as tenants of the Wakefield and Barnsley Bank and were operating a reclaimed wool business. On December 16th 1905 the Ossett Observer carried a four column report of proceedings in the Leeds Assizes in an action brought by Messrs Bentley Bros of Hope Mill, mungo manufacturers, against Messrs Metcalfe & Co also mungo manufacturers of the same address. Bentley's were seeking to recover £202 compensation from Metcalfe which they (Bentleys) had paid to the widow of their employee, John Hy Dews, who had been killed at the Mill on 1st April 1905.

Dews had been killed by the bursting of a drum in an engine (used to power the rag machine) that was known to be faulty and had a tendency to "run away" (ie speed up and shake uncontrollably). Bentley's rented a room, a rag machine and power from Metcalfe. Bentley's claimed that they were entitled to rely on their agreement that the engine was safe and that any maintenance was Metcalfe's responsibility and consequently it was they who should also be responsible for Widow Dews' compensation. The Court found in favour of Bentley's.

The report also tells us that Metcalfes were themselves renting the mill from the Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bank on a ten year lease from October 1902 at £100 per annum. Bentley took out a lease from Metcalfe in the same month. The engine had been installed in July 1902. The head of Metcalfe's was Mr Albert Metcalfe and he stated that the firm had taken possession of the mill in 1888.

In May 1907 the mill was offered for sale by auction by the United Counties Bank by which time Metcalfe's were paying £105 pa (Ossett Observer 18 May 1907). The same edition carried a report of a fire in the mill's shaking place which did £100-£105 damage. By 1910 Albert Metcalfe is recorded (1910 Inland Revenue Valuation Book) as the owner and occupier of the mill and this remained the case through to 1921 when the Poor Rate Valuation List records Metcalfe and Co Ltd as owners and occupiers.

In the first quarter of the 20th Century it is known that the Mill, still known as Hope Mill was, again, badly damaged in a fire. At that time it was also known as Metcalfes. (see Stanley Ross' memories published Ossett Observer 1969- reproduced later in this research)

Timeline - Ginn's Mill or Hope Mill

1819-1823 Mill built as a worsted manufactory. Joseph Brooke first owner/occupier

1830 Jane Brooke widow owner/occupier

1832 Notice that the Mill is for sale

1840 Joseph Ginn owner/occupier. Converted to Corn Mill.

1843 Tithe Award records Ginn as owner/occupier

1850 Ordnance Survey map records "Ginns Mill (corn)". Mill put up for sale.

1851 Joseph Gomersal owner/occupier. Runs as corn mill.

1856 Edward Walshaw renting mill

1861 Census shows Edward Whittaker and James Fryer, corn millers both living locally

1865 Mill sold to Messrs Wm Brook Henry Giggle & Geo Teal. Converted to flock manufactory

1872 Notice that Mill is for sale

1874 Henry Giggle emigrates to USA.

1876 Wm Brook insolvent

1881 Wm Brook is a wool extractor & living adjacent to HopeMill

1888 Owned by Wakefield & Barnsley Bank. Occupied by Albert Metcalfe & Co mungo manufacturer

1902 Tenants of Mill are Metcalfe & Co and Bentley & Co mungo manufacturers.

1905 John Henry Dews killed in accident at the Mill. Court case re liability

1907 Mill offered for sale by auction by United Counties Bank

1910 Albert Metcalfe owner/occupier

1921 Albert Metcalfe owner/occupier

Edward Dews (1821-1890) - Whinfield Terrace and Dews Rows

Edward Dews was born in Horbury and was baptised there on Christmas Day 1821. He was the eldest of four sons of weaver George Dews and Mary and by the age of 19 he had followed his father's trade and become a spinner in Horbury. Two of Edward's brothers, George junior and Ezra emigrated to the USA; Ezra in 1848 and George junior before 1860 and both were living in New Haven Connecticut by 1870. Edward's other brother William went to Hunslet. Of the brothers only Edward remained close by his parents. By 1851 he had married and moved to Dewsbury Road Wakefield where he carried on his trade as a spinner. By 1859 he had become a grocer on Westgate Wakefield and had become involved, albeit as a bit part player, in a national electoral voting scandal when he was paid to vote for a particular candidate in an election. He was one of many to be bribed but the Dews family had already demonstrated a determination to get on.

On 3rd July 1860 Edward purchased a *messuage* (house) on the south side of Westgate Wakefield from Thomas Button, Innkeeper of Potovens and Mark Townend of Teal Town Ossett. He had put his election "earnings" to good purpose and in 1861 he was carrying on the same grocery trade and living in the same location in Wakefield on what was then known as the Wakefield Halifax Road.

Originally from Horbury and now doing business with Mark Townend from nearby Teal Town (Teall Street of 2010) Edward would have been reasonably familiar with Ossett Spa and on 1st December 1864 he purchased 1 acre 3 roods and 38 perches (almost 2 acres) of land off Spa Street. This is shown on the 1890 map (shown elsewhere) as field numbers 169 and 170 and was the land on which Edward would subsequently build Whinfield Terrace and Dews Row. In the Deed for the purchase Edward is now described as a manufacturer and we are told that the land he purchased had formerly been in the occupation of Joseph Totty who was probably a tenant. The land was actually sold to Edward by Messrs Edward Tootal, John Barff Charlesworth, John Scholey and Joseph Baines. The 1813 Ossett Inclosure Order had allotted the land to William Naylor and the 1843 Tithe Award shows the then land owner as John Barff. Noting the name of one of the vendors it seems likely that these individuals were the Trustees of a deceased Barff's estate. Interestingly the 1843 Tithe Award shows Jane Brook as tenant of the Barff owned land. Jane Brook was the wife of William Brooke who in 1865 was to become one of the joint owners of Ginns Mill

The purchase of this land, which was a field, would not provide Edward with anywhere to live and on 13 July 1866 he purchased from Hannah Brearey, widow of Crackenedge and William Smith clothier *"all that cottage dwellinghouse tenement with garden and newly allotted land of 1 rood 33 perches adjoining..(Paupers Park)...and formerly in the occupation of James Smith or his undertenants and after by Samuel Fothergill, since of Joseph Smith but now unoccupied which cottage and land were purchased by William Smith deceased the grandfather of Hannah Brearey from the Reverend Jonathan Alderson Robert Lumb and the Duke of Leeds.... on 22nd June 1811"*

The land (approximately ½ an acre) referred to above is shown in the 1813 Inclosure map as being in the ownership of the Duke of Leeds who was also the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield. In 1843 the land is in the ownership of Nancy Smith and is occupied by Samuel Fothergill. On the 1890 map it is part of field 168. The cottage built upon the land is the one shown in the 1795 Manor estate map reproduced earlier in this study.

The Deed suggests that the land and cottage were unoccupied in 1866. The house standing on the land (in 2010) does not have the appearance of an 18th Century dwelling and it is possible that this is a replacement for an older cottage that previously stood there. If so, this replacement, which may have been known as Whinfield House was most probably built, in the late 1860's by Edward Dews, perhaps for his own occupation. In 1813 the road to the house was known as Smith Road. The road is now known as Whinfield Terrace.

In 1868 Edward Dews is described in another Deed (the other parties being Alfred Smith Gentleman and Susanna Williamson widow both of Wakefield) as being of Ossett Common and a manufacturer. The other parties to the Deed are Alfred Smith Gentleman and Susanna Williamson widow both of Wakefield and Edward is pledging his property as security for a loan; probably to fund his building works. Interestingly, also in 1868 Alfred Smith and Susanna Williamson enter a similar agreement with Henry Giggle and his partners at Ginn's Mill (see earlier). In that case they are replacing Henry Oakes, Gentleman as lenders to Giggle and his partners. Henry Oakes of Old Hall Wakefield went on to purchase Spring End Mill in June 1871. It is likely that Smith, Williamson and Oakes were in the business of lending money for land acquisitions and property development.

In any event the Deed between Edward Dews and Smith and Williamson, dated 6th March 1868 refers to land comprising 1 acre 3 roods and 38 perches which we know to be the land referred to above and which was allotted to William Naylor in 1813. The Deed continues "*and also of and in all those **three** messuages or dwellinghouses recently erected and built by the said Edward Dews and now in the occupation of the said Edward Dews and of his tenants Jane Mitchell and Alfred Pickard and also of and in all those eight several other messuages or dwellinghouse and buildings now erecting and building on the other part of the said allotment.....*"

This tells a great deal about what was happening here in the late 1860's. Having bought the land in December 1864 Edward had built a **three** house terrace (Whinfield Terrace) there by early March 1868. He was living in one and renting the other two. It seems likely that he would have waited out the 1864/65 winter before beginning the build and perhaps had it completed before the winter of 1867/68. This suggests the construction of the the three house terrace between mid 1865 and mid 1867. The 1871 Census reveals Edward and his family with an Ossett Low Common address but since he was there in 1868 this would almost certainly be one of the three Whinfield terrace houses. Recorded next to Edward in the Census are two unoccupied houses and these would be the other two Whinfield terrace houses at that time unlet.

The Deed also relates that eight dwellings, on the same land, were in the course of construction in 1868. This is Dews Row which stood on Spa Street to the east of Whinfield Terrace and opposite The Fleece Public House. Not content with his acquisition of the land and cottage to the west, Whinfield Terrace and Dews Row Edward also had a living to make and in February 1872 he was purchasing the land and Mill at the nearby Spa Lane in connection with his work as a manufacturer. There is much more of this later.

In 1872 Edward also pledges his Wakefield Westgate property where he had been a grocer in the late 1850's and early 1860's, his Spa Lane land and Mill and his Whinfield cottage and land as security for a loan from Messrs Poppleton and Knowles of Horbury. In 1875 he sells his Wakefield

Westgate property and the Deed reveals that this property is “now known as *The Spread Eagle Inn*” and is situated on the south side of the Dewsbury Wakefield Road at Westgate.

In 1884 he purchases more land in the vicinity of Whinfield Terrace and on 10 April 1884 Edward Dews, Yarn Spinner, buys 1 acre 24 perches from Joseph Clegg Cloth weaver. This land “formerly in the occupation of Samuel Fothergill but now William Dews” is to the west of Whinfield and is field 166 on the 1890 map. In the 1813 Ossett Inclosure Order this field was allotted to Joseph Mitchell and in 1843 the owner and occupier is John Mitchell.

By 1885 he continues his acquisition of land near his Whinfield home. On the 9 June 1885 he and James Dews, Grocer, buy 1 acre and 20 perches (or thereabouts) from Ben Crowther and Joseph Morton of Spring End, Samuel Longley woollorter and Seth Fozzard formerly of Lee Fair Ardsley, Mill Engineer and Charlotte Chappel of Barnsley. This land fronts on to Spa Street and is adjacent and to the south of the land on which Whinfield Terrace and Dews Row was built. On 28 June 1885 a Deed refers to the adjacent land comprising 2 roods 33 perches and also having a Spa Street frontage. In 1813 both these pieces of land were allotted to Eastwood. They are shown on the 1890 map as fields 75 and 76.

Edward’s wife, Ann, died on 13 July 1887 aged 62 and on 11 November 1888 Edward, aged 66, married widow Emma Stead as recorded in the Leeds Mercury 22nd November 1888

Marriages.

Dews—Stead.—November 19th, at Burley Church, Leeds, Edward Dews, of Winfield House, Ossett, to Emma, relict of the late William Stead, accountant, Leeds.

Edward Dews died on 26 June 1890, aged 68, at Spa Ossett and the Leeds Mercury reported “When Mr. Edward Dews, Whinfield House, Ossett and partner in Ossett Spa Mill, a major shareholder in the Ossett Gas Company died in July 1890, a public auction was held at the Bull in Wakefield to dispose of his shareholdings and estate.”

Edward’s Memorial and that of his first wife from the Baptist Church Burial Ground Baptist Lane Ossett

In affectionate remembrance of
Anninal Earnshaw
beloved wife of Edward Dews
of Whinfield South Ossett
died July 13th 1887
aged 62 years
also of the above named
Edward Dews
died June 26th 1890
aged 68 years

Edward's Last Will and Testament was dated 15th April 1890 and a codicil was dated 10 June 1890 just 16 days before his death. The Memorial of his Will is lodged at the WYAS offices in Wakefield and it reads *"all that freehold messuage known as Whinfield House and all that mill land and premises including the house occupied by Mr Ezra Dews and the cottage in the Mill Yard known as Ossett Spa Mill situate in Ossett aforesaid and four double houses with the four fields and garden adjoining at Whinfield in Ossett"*

A Deed of 1890 (West Yorkshire Archives Service WYAS Vol 38 569 290) shows Mary Harriet Dews, wife of John Dews labourer (and possibly the daughter of Edward Dews – a Mary Harriet Dews married a James Dews at Dewsbury in 1873) of the 1st part, James Marchent* of the 2nd part and William Dews of Horbury, Hotel Proprietor, of the 3rd part selling Edward's landholdings including;

*"... all those dwellinghouses some time erected by Edward Dews deceased and known by the name of Whinfield Terrace with the greenhouse and other outbuildings thereto adjoining and belonging in the respective occupation of James Henry Exley, the Reverend Edwin Greenwood, Mrs Bennet and **one unoccupied** and also of eight cottages some time ago erected upon the other part of the said land by Edward Dews deceased and known by the name of Dews Row now or late in the occupation of Messrs Binns, Wilby, Griffith Walker and others.....secondly all that freehold cottage dwellinghouse or tenement with garden and newly allotted land in all 1 rood and 33 perches adjacent to enclosure of land late reserved for the use by the Poor of Ossett by the Ossett Inclosure Order and formerly in the occupation of James Smith afterwards Sam Fothergill since of Joseph Smith but lately of Edward Dews....."*

*More will be heard of James Marchent (senior & junior) in the section on Spa Mill to follow

The above Deed from 1890 refers to the properties known as Whinfield Terrace, the row of eight houses in a terrace, known as Dews Row, which once stood between Whinfield Terrace and Spa Street (directly opposite The Fleece Public House). The Deed also refers to Whinfield House which is set back from Whinfield Terrace and which now appears to be two houses. A house stood in this location in 1790 although the house which stands there now does not suggest a property of 18th Century provenance.

The Deed also tells us that in 1890 there were four dwellings with a Whinfield Terrace address one of which was unoccupied at the date of the Deed. When the terrace was built in 1865-1867 there were only three dwellings so that a further dwelling was added between about 1867 and 1890. Elsewhere Edward is described as being of Whinfield House and it is not clear whether this was one of the Whinfield Terrace properties (he was certainly living on the Terrace in 1871) or the house in the land of 1 rood 33 perches to the west of the Terrace.

Leeds Mercury 4th August 1890 – Sale of Edward Dews' assets

The valuable properties at Ossett Spa and a large number of local bank and gas shares belonging to the late Mr. Edward Dews, of Ossett, attracted a large number of gentlemen, particularly from Ossett, Horbury, &c. There was keen competition for the lots, and good prices were realised, the buyers being chiefly from Ossett. Four dwelling-houses, known as Whinfield - terrace, were bought by Mrs. James Dews, of Ossett, for £1,450, and she also purchased eight cottages, known as Dews's-row, for £650, and another cottage, garden, &c., occupied by Mr. Wm. Dews, for £510. A close of pasture-land, containing 1a. 0r. 16p., was sold to Mr. A. Dews for £225, and he gave the same sum for two other closes of land. All the bank and gas shares, with the exception of a lot in the Elmsall and South Kirkby Gas Co., sold well. Twenty £10 fully paid up shares in the last-named company only realised £3 2s. 6d. each, the buyer being Mr. Wm. Dews. Five shares of £50 each (£13 10s. paid) in the Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bank Limited were secured by Mr. Alfred Lawrence, solicitor, Ossett, for £212 10s.; and Mr. C. G. Smith, saddler, of Wakefield, bought a similar lot for £209 15s. A large number of shares in the Wakefield Gas Company were next offered. Two £25 shares were sold to Mr. W. Dews, of Ossett, for £130. Ten £5 shares were bought for £125 by Mr. Brown; and Mr. W. Dews secured 20 more for £250; and a lot of ten made £125, the buyer being Mr. W. Brook. Mr. W. H. Hughes, of Wakefield, bought thirty £5 B-5th shares for £288; and Mr. Scott secured twenty-three more for £9 11s. each. Mr. Jessop was the buyer of ten £10 shares at £17 12s. 6d., Mr. Brook got ten at the same price, and another lot of fourteen was sold to Mr. F. Dews at £17 7s. 6d. each.—About 126 £5 "A" Shares in the Ossett Gas Company were next offered. Sixty were bought by Mr. Arthur Harrop, of Ossett, for £12 18s. each. Mr. Scott got twenty for £12 14s. each, Mr. John Wray, grocer, &c., Horbury, secured twenty for £12 13s. each, and the remaining sixteen were knocked down at the same price to Mr. F. Dews. Ten "B" shares in the same company, £5 each, fully paid, sold for £8 18s. 6d. each to Mr. Oldroyd. Mr. Jessop bought twenty more at £8 17s., and twenty-six were sold to Mr. R. Clegg at £8 17s. 6d. each. Mr. Briggs, of South Ossett, bought seventy-eight £5 shares, £3 paid, for £6 each, or £468 for the lot. The same gentleman bought thirty £10 "B" Shares in the Rothwell Gas Company, at £14 7s. 6d. each. Alderman Watson, Mayor of Wakefield, bought forty £5 Shares in the Mirfield Gas Company for £12 7s. each, and forty more sold for £12 9s. each to Mr. Robert Clegg, butcher, Ossett.

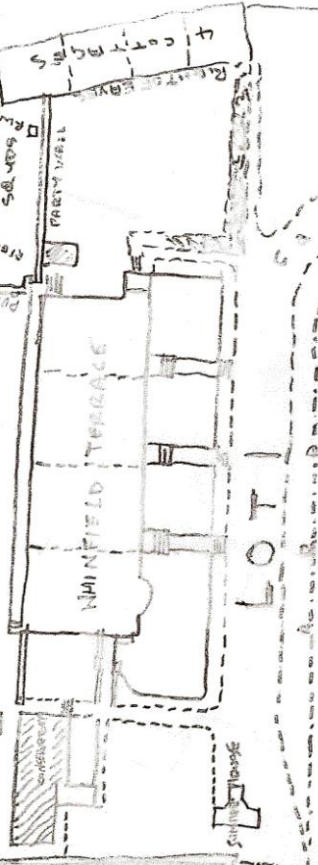
On 14th November 1890 Mrs James Dews (Mary Harriet Dews) and William Dews appear to be selling Edward Dews' ownerships at or near Whinfield to Henry James Exley. However a later Deed of 1911 suggests they still own the land and properties and so it is possible that in 1890 Exley is lending them money so that they can purchase the following land and property from Edward's estate. Exley was also one of Edward's Executors so the Deed could be to do with this. The Deed mentions land of 1 acre 3 roods and 38 perches, four dwelling houses known by the name Whinfield Terrace (the Deed states Whinfield House but the word House is crossed out and replaced with the word Terrace suggesting that the Terrace may at one time have been known as Whinfield House), eight cottages known by the name Dews Row occupied by Binns, Wilby, Griffith, Walker and others and also a freehold cottage formerly occupied by James Smith *but lately by Edward Dews deceased*.

It will be clear from earlier descriptions that this land and the properties are those to the west of The Fleece Public House all previously in the ownership of Edward Dews and bought from his estate by Mary Harriett Dews (wife of James Dews) and William Dews in August 1890. The Deed also tells us that Edward Dews, at the time of his death was not living in one of the Whinfield Terrace houses but in Whinfield House further to the west of the Terrace. The Deed also includes a plan of the land and property referred to in the Deed. The Plan is reproduced overleaf.

MR ROBERT CLEGG

RIGHT OF ROAD TO LOTS 1 & 3 8' 6" WIDE

LOT 3
6 2 25



LOT 1
1 3 15

LOT 5

Whinfield Terrace and Dews Row were important features of the Spa landscape in the second half of the 19th century. Built in the mid/ late 1860's they were a significant element of the housing stock and yet it seems that they were built with two very different types of occupant in mind. Whinfield Terrace almost certainly was built with a view to attracting people who were interested in a location close to the Ossett Spa Baths and the proposed New Harrogate /Montpelier Gardens across Manor Road in the area of today's Goring Park Avenue. One might say they were aimed at the middle class market. Dews Row on the other hand was built for workers from the nearby Mills and Roundwood Pit.

An examination of census records confirms this to have been the case. But before looking at the census information for these properties a note of information and warning. Every district in the England & Wales Census was recorded on the basis of an Enumeration District. This was supposed to be an area which an enumerator (the collector of the census) could walk around in a day. Often individual postal addresses were not recorded with the only identifier being a number allocated to each property by the enumerator. Often residents may not be at home when the enumerator called and consequently the properties may not be recorded in the order in which they appear on the street or road. Consequently it can be difficult to construct an accurate picture.

The information which follows therefore should be treated with caution and in the light of the limitations referred to above.

In **1871** Edward Dews, his wife Ann (nee Earnshaw) and 6 children (Ezra, Frederick, Mary Harriet, Joseph, William and Edward junior) are shown with a Low Common address but they living next to two unoccupied houses. In 1868 it is known that Edward was living at (what we know as) Whinfield Terrace and it is probable that is his address in 1871.

The Census evidence for the occupants of Whinfield Terrace in **1881** suggests a Spa Street address and it appears that the houses are occupied by;

- **James Henry Exley**(aged 38 retired corn merchant) with wife two children and a 70 year old aunt
- James Comfort** (aged 28 Baptist Minister) with wife two children and servant
- Geo Avison** (aged 62 retired grocer) with wife

It is known from other sources (Trade Directories and envelopes) that James H Exley lived at Whinfield Terrace.

It is not clear from the Census who is in the fourth house (if indeed there was a fourth house by 1881) on Whinfield Terrace but the Census name following Geo Avison is Edward Dews. He could be living in the fourth house or at Whinfield House which has been suggested to be the detached house, at the end of what was Smith's Road to the west of the Terrace.

Next on the 1881 Census listing, all with a Spa Road address are 11 families before reaching the address of The Little Bull. Next to Edward are Thomas Dews (coal miner aged 24), William Dews (farmer of 3 acres aged 60) and Enoch Dews (stone mason aged 60) followed by 3 more families before the census records Joshua Fothergill (Farmer of 65 acres). No dwellings are recorded as

vacant. There were 8 cottages in the Row but it is known that they were still in the course of construction in March 1868 such that some may be unoccupied but not recorded. It is probable however that the three Dews families mentioned here were living in Dews Row. Several of the occupants in the Row earn their living as stone masons or mason's labourers suggesting that there was plenty building work around even in 1881.

In **1891 James Henry Exley** (living on own means) is still recorded here albeit with a Spa Road address. Next door is a Baptist Minister (as in 1881) but now it is **Edward Greenwood** (Cheshire born). Living next door is **James Dews** an Excavator. A fourth house appears to be **unoccupied** (Edward Dews died in 1890 and it could therefore have been his home which is now empty though the Deed of 1890 referred to above confirms his address at death was Whinfield House further to the west.. The 1891 Census identifies the number of rooms in each house *if* there are fewer than five. There is no room indicator next to James Dews suggesting he was living in a house with 5 or more rooms. We will see later (1911) that the Whinfield Terrace houses each had 6 rooms (as defined in the Census) so it is possible that James Dews was living on Whinfield Terrace in 1891.....as he was in 1901. It is not known what relation James was to Edward –there were seven James Dews with an Ossett address in 1891 but it seems likely it was his son in law who had married Edward's daughter Mary Harriet Dews (note that her married and maiden name was Dews)

Kelly's West Riding Trade Directory also records private residents and in **1893 William Birch, Jas Henry Exley** and **Reverend Edwin Greenwood (Baptist)** are all recorded with a Whinfield Terrace Spa Street address. Once again only three houses are recorded.

1901- For the first time the Census records four houses with a Whinfield Terrace address. Occupants are **James Henry Exley** (retired grain merchant), **Edwin Greenwood** (Baptist Minister), **Eli Mitchell** (Solicitor's Clerk) and **James Dews** (self employed coal leader car?)

In relation to the eight cottages opposite The Fleece, known as Dews Row, the Census records eight two roomed cottages all adjacent. It seems likely that this was Dews Row. Five houses are occupied by families whose head of household are miners. The other dwellings are occupied by a hawker/pedlar, a worsted scourer and a mason's labourer. Two of the houses have six occupants. The next address in the Census is Fellmonger Albert Illingworth (aged 46).

The **1911** Census records the occupants of three named *Whinfield Terrace* properties;

Herbert Squires	Foreman Rag & Shoddy Mill	6 Rooms	Whinfield Terrace
Harry Cracknell	Mill Engineer	6 Rooms	10 Whinfield Terrace
John Thomas Marsden	Brewer's Traveller	6 Rooms	14 Whinfield Terrace

And two houses before Herbert Squires' house is Whinfield Cottage (4 rooms) occupied by Greengrocer Feargus Marsden. Could this be the fourth house in the Terrace or (more likely) the house to the west of Whinfield Terrace? We will also see more of Herbert Squires in the Spa Mill section of this study when he is a joint owner of Spa Mill.

Once again it is difficult to identify the occupants of Dews Row since the Census does not record Dews Row as an address. Rather the addresses recorded are for Spa Street (17 dwellings), Spa Road (1 property and perhaps it should read Spa Street) and Spa Lane (13 including The Spa Inn). There are 2 Tates Mill Yard addresses (which is thought to be south of the Spa Lane/Spa Street junction.) There is a section of the Census which records 7 dwellings each with two bedrooms between Whinfield Terrace and Albert Illingworth (Fellmonger) of 32 Spa Street. The seven houses are occupied by four miners, a labourer, a scourer in a mill and a wool and rag sorter. Three of the two bedroom houses are occupied by families comprising six or seven people, usually husband wife and children but the occasional lodger is present to contribute towards costs. This is probably Dews Row

By 1910 the Whinfield land and property had passed to Sarah Dews and when she died on 5th November 1910 the land and property was sold to Mary Jane and William Altona Aspdin. The Deed reveals that the occupants of the Terrace at that time were JT Marsden, H Squires and H Cracknell. 1 house in the Terrace was unoccupied. Dews Row was occupied by E Grace, A Bowker, A Clark, J Stephenson, F Avison and W Dews with two unoccupied. The property to the west known in this study as Whinfield House is now called Whinfield Place and comprises three dwellings. One is unoccupied and the others are occupied by F Marsden and A Webster

The **1913-14** Ossett Burgess Roll records **Harry Cracknell** , **John Webster** and **David Oldroyd** with a Whinfield Terrace address and Fred Hirst and John Robert Teale with a *Whinfield* address. Once again, and oddly, only three of the houses has a Whinfield *Terrace* address. . The Census, with some certainty, records the residents in three of the Whinfield Terrace houses during the period 1871 to 1911. Oddly a fourth house in the Terrace appears to go by a different name in some censuses when it (may be) called Whinfield, Whinfield Cottage or in one case simply Spa Road. Of course the fourth house in the Terrace was not built at the same time as the other three but was added later but only in 1901 does the Census offer four houses with a Whinfield Terrace address. Nevertheless it is clear that the dwellings, three of which are recorded as each having six rooms in 1911, are occupied by middle class families who would have been considered “well to do”

In comparison Dews Row comprised eight “cottages, each with only two rooms – one up and one down. They were occupied by working class families, and miners were the most recorded heads of the household rather than Mill workers. Other members of the family however often did work the Mills indicating also that much mill work was often undertaken by women and boys and girls. The houses were small but records show families of six and seven were living in them with the houses sharing outside toilet facilities.

Time Line - Whinfield Terrace and Dews Row.

- 1795** Manor of Wakefield Estate map shows building in position of Whinfield House
- 1813** Ossett Inclosure Order map shows Whinfield land ownerships.
- 1850** Map shows building in position of Whinfield House
- 1859** Edward Dews is bribed to vote for candidate in General Election
- 1864** Edward Dews arrives at Ossett Spa from Wakefield Westgate. Buys Whinfield land
- 1866** Edward Dews buys Whinfield House & builds Whinfield Terrace. (three dwellings)
- 1868** Edward Dews builds eight cottages to be known as Dews Row.
- 1871 – 1890** Whinfield Terrace extended to incorporate fourth dwelling
- 1884-1885** Edward Dews buys 1.75 acres land to west & south of Whinfield Terrace
- 1890** Edward Dews dies at Whinfield House. Whinfield land/property is auctioned.
- 1890** Whinfield land & property owned by Mary Harriet Dews & Wm Dews (Edward's children)
- 1910** Whinfield land and property sold by Sarah Dews' Estate to Mary Jane & Wm Altona Aspden.

In 1868 Edward Dews is said to have been of Whinfield Terrace and he may have lived there for the rest of his life. There is some confusion in this regard since he was often referred to as being of Whinfield House, which he also owned and which was to the west of the Terrace. At his death in 1890 he was certainly living at Whinfield House .

Postscript Edward Dews and the Wakefield Election Enquiry 1859

In October 1859 Edward Dews found himself questioned in Court in connection with an Enquiry into alleged corrupt electoral practices in the Parliamentary Election of that year. 1859 was the first election in which the Liberals (an alliance of Whigs, Peelites, Radicals and Irish Brigade) had stood for election. The local candidates were John Dodgson Charlesworth (Conservative) and George Leatham (Liberal). Leatham was returned but his Conservative opponents petitioned Parliament which subsequently led to Leatham being unseated. A Commission was established to investigate the allegations of corruption. A report was made and the press coverage of the Enquiry, which included the questioning of witnesses, was fulsome. Edward Dews was one of those questioned and there follows a transcript of two of (many of) the newspaper reports concerning his involvement.

Witness offered Edward Dews Westgate-common £20 for his vote. On the day of the election Dews got into the cellar and his wife ordered him (witness) out of the shop. Would have given the man £20 or £25 to vote for Mr Leatham. Dews it was well known was to be sold to the best man. Hundreds of both sides collected around the house; the wife got indignant and threatened to use a knife to the canvassers (Laughter) Dews voted for Leatham ultimately He had plenty of offers on both sides and was regularly sold.

Huddersfield Chronicle and West Yorkshire Advertiser Saturday October 8th 1859

Edward Dews, grocer, Westgate Common said –“ I voted for Mr Leatham. Mr Shipley called upon me and offered me £30. About 3 weeks after the election I received £20 more for my vote. I had no offer from the other party. When I voted I did not expect a penny”.

The Leeds Mercury Thursday October 13th 1859

Notwithstanding that Edward had admitted accepting a bribe from those canvassing for Leatham, and thereby implicating Leatham supporters, Edward Dews was never in danger of prosecution. However at least one case of criminal prosecution did follow in 1861 when *John Barff Charlesworth*, the cousin of the Conservative candidate, John Dodgson Charlesworth, was charged with bribery in the Wakefield Election. Ironically it was the Conservatives who had caused the Commission to be established in the first instance!

The case is of interest to the Ossett Spa history for two reasons.

The first is that it involves Edward Dews who moved from Westgate to Ossett Spa a few years after this case. But, secondly, because in 1864 Edward Dews, Wakefield grocer, purchased his very first piece of land, a field in Ossett, on which he would later build Whinfield Terrace. One of the vendors of that land was.....*John Barff Charlesworth*.

Was Edward playing both ends against the middle and taking benefit from both parties and was the land deal at Ossett the price for him implicating the Liberal candidate and saying he had not taken anything from the Conservatives? Was Edward Dews ruthless or was it all just coincidence? Whinfield Terrace was built on the land just a few years later and John Barff Charlesworth of Hatfield Hall Stanley was a Justice of The Peace in 1869 suggesting he was acquitted. He had cause to be grateful. Edward's bribe in 1859 was £50 it seems. In 2010 this would be the equivalent of £12,500.

Spa Lane – From Deeds and Censuses 1800-1911

The earlier parts of this research have sought to paint a picture of Ossett Spa, the Mills, the housing and the people who lived here. The final chapter will look at the history of Spa Mill and the man who, with his family, worked the Mill for almost 40 years, Edward Dews.

Before doing so this section looks at Deeds and Census information relating to Spa Lane to determine the extent of housing provision on the Lane on which Spa Mill was located.

1911 Spa Lane South side from junction with Spa Street. Public House and Terrace of three dwellings .

Spa Inn, nos. 3 Spa Lane (2 rooms), 5 Spa Lane (3 rooms), 7 Spa Lane (4 rooms) occupied respectively by Norman Summerscales (Miner & Beerhouse proprietor), Stokoe (miner), Scholey (miner) and North (labourer) who was living in the 4 roomed dwelling with his wife and 8 children all under the age of 13. None of the above occupants were living here in 1901 suggesting turnover was high and mobility common.

1911 Spa Lane North side

Numbers 2 (4 rooms), 4 (3rooms), 6(3rooms), 8 (3rooms), 10 (3rooms), 12(2 rooms) 14 (1room). Other addresses in the Spa Lane section of the census include "Ossett Spa" where Butcher George Riley lives in 7 rooms. (this is the house and grounds in Spa Lane where the Spa Bath(s) were located .It was known as Spa House), "Bungalow House Spa Lane"(6 rooms) and 11 White House Spa Lane(2 rooms).

The dwellings were occupied by Joseph Staincliffe (miner) Alice Hyland (rag sorter) Lucy Hallas (worsted spinner) Cottinson (miner) Richard Donnelly (miner), Edward Hall (miner) and Richard Hicks (Army Pensioner born Middlesex). George Riley (Butcher and one time Bath Proprietor) was next in the Census. The Bungalow was occupied by William France (miner) and the White House by 71 year old Johnson Webster (no occupation)

In total in 1911 Spa Lane had 13 dwellings and The Spa Inn. This is the same number as in 1901. Predominantly the occupation of the head of each household was miner (7), but in addition there are... pensioner/no occupation(2), millwork (2 both women) a labourer and a butcher. This is similar to 1901.

1901 Spa Lane Public House and South side

Spa Inn and three dwellings which will be 3 Spa Lane (because 2 rooms are shown), 5 Spa Lane (3 rooms) and 7 Spa Lane (4 rooms). They are occupied by Thomas Webster at The Spa Inn (Miner), Fred Lodge (miner), Wilfred Lucas (Grocer) and Ennis Hinchcliffe (Carbonizer).

1901 Spa Lane North side

10 dwellings –from Spa Street junction. Not numbered in Census but 7 dwellings will be nos. 2 to 14 with four having 4 rooms, one with 3 rooms and one single roomed house. [One unit appears missing/empty]. Occupied by Andrew Ward (Miner), Joseph Hallas (Miner), Maria Sykes (aged 70 no occupation) Richard Donnelly (Miner), Harry Goldthorpe (Miner) and Sarah Dews (aged 67 retired grocer living in one room). George Riley (Butcher) follows (in a house with more than 5 rooms – Spa House) the two dwellings each with two rooms are occupied by Thomas Baines (Rag Machine Feeder) and Johnson Webster (retired boiler Maker). In 1911 this last house on Spa Lane is known as the White House. A house between Baines and Webster is vacant.

In 1901 in total Spa Lane has 13 dwellings and The Spa Inn. This is 2 less than in 1891. 1 dwelling is empty, 6 of the family heads are miners, 2 work in mills, one is a butcher, one a grocer, and 3 are retired/no occupation.

1891 Spa Lane

It is difficult to differentiate the north and south sides of Spa Lane but the Census shows a total of **14 dwellings and The Spa Inn**. The census count begins on the north side of Spa Lane at Spa Street end. Here is a 2 roomed house (Jack Hetherington – miner) then George Riley (Butcher) probably living in the house with grounds in which stands the spa well, the remains of which can still be seen today. There follows a single roomed house (Joseph Ramsden-rag grinder), 3 rooms (John Cooper-Miner), 4 rooms (Alfred Westerman- Rag Carbonizer), 4 rooms (Laurie Ramsden –Rag grinder), 3 rooms (Ezra Dews Yarn manufacturer), 2 rooms (Thomas Baines engine man cloth mill), 4 rooms (James Topliff – Miner), 4 rooms (Wallace Sykes Painter Cloth Mill), 4 rooms (Sarah Dews Grocer), 2 rooms (Charles Link- Gas stoker), The Spa Inn (Eliza Glover –Beer House keeper) ,2 rooms (James Wilby Mason Labourer), 2 rooms (Grace Dixon Cloth weaver). It is known that Ezra Dews by this date was living in one of the houses within the Spa Mill complex south of Spa Lane.

The composition of the workforce varies significantly to 1901 and 1911 when the majority of the men (the heads of households in the census) were miners. In 1891 there are only 3 miners. In addition there is a butcher, a grocer, a mason's labourer and a beer house keeper. But the predominant occupation in the 1891 Census is Mill work with 8 households deriving their living from this source.

This suggests a fundamental shift in the prosperity of the Mills in the 1890's for by 1901 there were many more miners living on Spa Lane than any other occupation. The Mills were in decline.

1881 Spa Lane

12 dwellings and The Spa Inn are recorded beginning (as for 1881) at the Spa Street end. The number of rooms in each dwelling were not recorded in 1881 but the occupants are as follows; James Lacey (Miner), Sarah Goldsmith (with son in law Geo Riley bath proprietor), Ezra Teal (Wool dyer), Charlotte Chappell (no occupation), Andrew Rothery (Miner) Francis Liley (Cloth weaver) *Ezra Dews* (Overlooker Woollen Mill), Mark Hamilton (Stoker Wool Mill, James Dews (Grocer), Eliza Glover (no occupation), John Hall (Beerhouse keeper), Noah Talbot (Coal Mine Sinker) James Hall (Miner).

Heads of households recorded show 4 miners, 4 mill work, a grocer, beer house keeper, 2 no occupation and a bath proprietor. 20 years later there are only 2 heads of household working the mills.

1871 Spa Lane

This Census records a Spa Lane address for but also records a number of residents in “Chappel’s Buildings” before recording The Spa Inn (The address after the Spa Inn is Low Common). It seems likely then that a row of terraces was at that time known as Chappel’s Buildings and these stood on Spa Lane. The other significant factor of 1871 is that the Census **records a total of 15 dwellings** and The Spa. Of these 15 dwellings 6 are uninhabited. Chappel’s Buildings appears to comprise 8 dwellings 4 of which are uninhabited. They are recorded adjacent (*in the census count* – which does not necessarily mean they were actually adjacent) to The Spa Inn. The 1871 Census does not record room numbers in dwellings. Were these 4 dwellings in the course of construction or were they 4 of the 5 which stood here by 1831 and which, perhaps, were now unfit for habitation?

The Census appears to begin (as does 1881 and 1891) at the Spa Lane junction with Spa Street and on the north side of the Lane. It records Isaac Dixon (Carrier), Ezekiel Goldsmith (Bath proprietor), vacant dwelling, John Glover (wool sorter), Seth Fozzard (Mechanic Fitter), vacant, Eli Stephenson (Rag Grinder). The foregoing properties have a Spa Lane address. The following are Chappel’s Buildings. George Pickersgill (Grocer and rag grinder), vacant, Samuel Longley (Woolsorter), **John Chappel** (Woolen Rag Merchant), 2 vacant, Mary Ramsden (no occupation), 1 vacant, The Spa Inn (Joseph Nightingale (Miner and Beer House Keeper). It is worthy of note that Chappell and Ramsden were names of occupiers on Spa Lane in 1831 (see Spa Bath Notice 1831 shown elsewhere)

The Licensing records for The Spa Inn record that in 1870 John Chappel was the first owner of the Spa Inn. The first licensee was Andrew Wilby in 1866. The Spa was at the eastern end of a terrace of properties and it is possible that it was this terrace, on the south side of Spa Lane which was known as Chappel’s Buildings. The drawings for the building are reproduced elsewhere and refer to “existing bedrooms” suggesting the Spa may not have been a new building in the mid 1860’s but a conversion of an existing terrace dwelling or dwellings. John Chappel was also a “woollen rag merchant” suggesting that he would be operating from mill or warehouse premises. Possibly these were part of the Spa Mill complex of the time.

The Spa Public House plans from this time also record the adjacent landowner to the west and south of the Spa Inn as “Mr Tate”. The north side of this part of Spa Lane was in the ownership, it seems, of a Mr Lucas. The name at the head of The Spa drawings is John Calvert and this family owned land on Spa Lane in the early 1800’s. In 1911 the Census shows two families living in Tates Yard though this is not a Spa Lane address and is believed to have been on Spa Street in the vicinity of Spring Field Mill or, more likely, the Dye house on the opposite side of the road. One of the families was called Pepper with 5 children; the husband and wife were living in “one large bedroom and a scullery”. It suggests that Tate owned land between 1860’s (maybe earlier) and 1911 in the vicinity of Spa Street/Spa Lane and elsewhere it will be seen he was to become an owner of Spa Mill. It is uncertain why so many dwellings were empty at that the time. Were the dwellings old stock in poor repair or were they new and not completed by the time of the 1871 March Census? There is no

mention of Chappel's Building in 1851 or 1881 but I tend to the view that these dwellings were being built between 1861-1870. Also worthy of note is that there is only one miner shown living on Spa Lane at this time and he was also the beer house keeper at The Spa

1861 Spa Lane

Only one property is shown in the 1861 Census with a Spa address in 1861. This is Spa House occupied by Ezekial Goldsmith (bath proprietor). This is the house on Spa Lane which was also home to the Spa bath(s). It is possible to conjecture about the remaining inhabitants in and around Goldsmith and consequently (perhaps) on Spa Lane.

It seems likely that the Census count began (as in later censuses) at the Spa Street junction with Spa Lane. This being the case the first occupant is William Farrar – a Carrier. In 1871 the first occupant of a Spa Lane property was also a carrier.

Following Goldsmith in the Census, with a Low Common address is William Horsfall a manager at a Cotton Mill. He would have been working for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Cotton Company as would his colleague and neighbour. Edmund Robinson (cotton carder). There follows, John Fothergill (wool cloth weaver- with his wife and two children Shadrack and Meshack Fothergill. Shadrack went on to become school caretaker at Spa School. He is buried at nearby Baptist Lane)

Joseph Senior (woollen cloth weaver), Robert Marples (Agricultural labourer) James Milner (card cleaner cotton mill) Grace Wilby (House Assistant), Edwin Wilby (woollen manufacturer), Benjamin Ward (woollen weaver) John Harrison (joiner).

The next entry is for Thomas Illingworth at The William The Fourth which is now known as the Little Bull on Teall Street. There has to be some doubt therefore about whether all the above addresses were on Spa Lane and perhaps some were on Spa Street. The Enumeration District description refers to Spa Lane but the Census records only one dwelling on the Lane and perhaps the Enumerator preferred the Low Common address. It was certainly the case that there was more than one dwelling on the Lane at this time.

If the above names are all Spa Lane occupants there were only 11 recorded which is fewer than in 1871. None are in living in what was known as Chappel's Buildings in 1871. If some shown actually lived on Spa Street and not Spa Lane then this suggests some major building between 1861 and 1871 and this coincides with the conclusion elsewhere that the 1860's -1870's were a period of housing, Mill and other development at Ossett Spa. I tend to the view that there were several (perhaps 6 or 7) completed dwellings on Spa Lane by 1861 but that new dwellings were in the course of construction. The pre 1860 housing stock is likely to have been in poor condition and some may have been demolished around this time.

It is also interesting to note that no heads of household were miners and that 3 were cotton workers at Springfield Mill and, as will be seen below, at Spa Mills opposite. Also worthy of note is the absence of any significant continuity of names between one census and another. This is very much at odds with the Census records for Teal Town and Low Common Road where the same families are shown over several censuses.

1851 Spa Lane

The 1850 map, reproduced elsewhere, which includes Ossett Spa and Spa Lane appears to show few buildings on or adjacent to Spa Lane or Spaw Lane as it is named in the description of the Enumeration District.

Once again the Census records only Low Common as an address and consequently it is difficult to draw any conclusions about which dwellings might be located on Spaw Lane and who might be living there. Ezekial Goldsmith, gardener, is the penultimate entry in the Census for this District and it is known that he was the Bath house keeper about 1850 (Trade directory source) and that in later censuses he can be identified as living in the house and grounds in which the spa well was located. This was one of the dwellings which existed here in 1831 and almost certainly earlier. The final entry in the census is Joseph Hinchcliffe (woollen weaver). Census entries adjacent to Hinchcliffe include Fothergill (farmer) and many Teals and several Pickards. The Teal families, and there were many of them, lived in Teal Town along Teal Town Road (now Teall Street) and the Pickards further along still at the junction of Teal Town Road and Low Common road (now South Parade). All this suggests there were very few properties on or about Spa lane at that time. Deeds evidence which follows shows there may have been 6 or 7 dwellings on the lane by this time but the census descriptions of the locality make it difficult to identify these dwellings and their occupants.

1841 Spa Lane

This is the first nationally available census and it describes Spaw Lane with one dwelling occupied by David Westerman 70 year old Clothier and his wife. Elsewhere (see the Spa baths section) though it has been seen that there were five houses on Spa Lane associated with or adjacent to Spa Baths on the north side of Spa Lane. A further dwelling existed at Timothy Lee Croft at the western end of the Lane.

Pre Census i.e. 1841 and earlier

Reference is made elsewhere to Deeds involving James Wade and others and Notices for the sale or Letting of the two baths which stood on the Lane from the early 1820's. These documents tell us something about the dwellings and their occupants in the 1820's and 1830's and earlier.

A deed of 1821 involving Wade refers to Timothy Lee living in a cottage on the Lane. By 1827 this Cottage is occupied by Richard Ramsden and is owned by James Wade. In addition there were five other cottages with outbuildings and gardens on the Lane close to the Baths, and probably known as "Cheltenham Spa". These were owned by James Wade and occupied by James Wade, Benjamin Emerson, Joseph Chappell, George Wade and George Andrews.

In 1823 a similar deed refers to the Timothy Lee Cottage being "lately" erected (and it seems likely that Lee lived here earlier, in 1813, suggesting an earlier structure stood here at the western end of the Lane. The five cottages referred to in the 1821 deed were now occupied by Joseph Rothery, John Dews, Joseph Chappell and George Wade.

Summary and Conclusion

What conclusions can be drawn from this analysis of the Census and other information between about 1821 and 1911? It is certain that there were at least five dwellings on Spa Lane in 1831. These appear to have been “associated” with the Spa Baths, and so probably built in the 1820’s. Little more development appears to have taken place in the 1841 and 1851 Censuses but by the 1860’s new dwellings were appearing. In the mid 1860’s the Spa Inn was either built or converted from an earlier dwelling. In any event the 1871 Census shows a significant increase in the housing stock along Spa Lane. In 1871 there were 15 dwellings and The Spa Inn and this included a series of 8 properties known as Chappel’s Buildings; four of these were vacant at the time of the Census...were these in the course of construction in 1871 and unoccupied or were these four of the houses which existed there in 1831 and now in poor repair and lacking “modern” conveniences?

This 1860’s growth would be consistent with other development on the Spa. Whinfield Terrace and Dews Row were built in the late 1860’s and Spa Mill(s) was built in the mid 1850’s.

The housing stock then remained fairly constant through to 1911 when there were 13 dwellings and The Spa Inn. The occupations of the heads of households also varied over the years. In the late 19th and early 20th century the main occupation of the family heads was mining although the women and working children in these households continued to labour in the nearby mills. In earlier years the family heads also earned their living mainly from the nearby Mills.

Whilst some names echo down the years there is an absence of any significant continuity of names between one census and another. This is very much at odds with the Census records for Teal Town and Low Common Road where the same families are shown living in the same dwellings over several censuses. This will have led to a sense of community which may not have been quite so evident at Spa Lane, particularly in the second half of the 19th Century, and elsewhere on Ossett Spa.

Ossett Spa Mills and Edward Dews (1822-1890)

Much has been said elsewhere about Edward Dews who was born in Horbury in 1821 and who died on Ossett Spa in 1890. He had arrived on the Spa in the early 1860's following short careers in spinning and then grocery. He had his fifteen minutes of fame when, along with many others, he was bribed to vote for a candidate in the parliamentary Elections of 1859. Perhaps it was this money, a significant sum in those days, which proved the turning point for Edward and his arrival at Ossett Spa with his wife and seven children (he had 10 in all) was to see him involved in the 1860's in a frenzy of land acquisitions and building along Spa Street at and around Whinfield Terrace.

But he was by upbringing a spinner and is recorded as such in Wakefield in 1851 when he was a stocking Yarn Spinner. It is not known whether he was a manufacturer at that point but it appears more likely that he worked in a Mill. Perhaps he didn't take easily to being an employee and by 1859 he was a grocer on the Dewsbury Road at Wakefield Westgate. He owned his own premises.

Self employment and property ownership (and the occasional bribe) had been rather good to Edward and he decided to try it on a larger scale with land acquisitions and building along Spa Street.

If the following report from the Leeds Mercury on 29 December 1863 concerns the same Edward Dews, as seems likely, then it appears unlikely that he arrived in Ossett before 1864. This date would fit with other events.

BREACHES OF THE FACTORY ACT AT WAKEFIELD.
—Yesterday, at the Wakefield Court-house, before Colonel Smyth, M.P., and Mr. G. H. Westerman, Mr. Measor, inspector of factories, appeared in support of informations against Mr. Joseph Moorhouse, of Clarkson's Mill, for breaches of the Factory Acts. Mr. Gill defended. There were four informations for employing three young persons and a woman after six p.m. on the night of the 16th December, and with regard to these there was a consent to pay the lowest penalty of £2 and costs. There were two other informations for employing young persons without having had them registered, but these were withdrawn on the expenses being paid, Mr. Gill, on behalf of Mr. Moorhouse, saying that the law should be strictly obeyed in future. There was also an information against Mr. Edward Dews of the same mill, who, on the 16th of November, had employed a woman after the regular hours, and it was dealt with as the charges against Mr. Moorhouse.

It is not clear where he worked on the Spa immediately after his move from Westgate but as early as 1866 he is described in White's Directory as "Dews (Edw) & Holford (Richard) Worsted and Yarn Spinners of Spa Common". It is possible they were working Spa Mill as early as this and that Dews and Holford were renting the Mill at that time. Kelly's Directory has Dews & Holford there in 1867.

Spa Mill or Mills was situated on the south side of Spa Lane on land, part of which is now owned by John Myers. Little remains of the Mills and this section will examine the land ownership and developments on the site from about 1800. Inevitably the history of the development is closely linked to the life of Edward Dews and his life here and elsewhere on the Spa will also be related largely through newspaper cuttings. If the reader has not already done so the Whinfield Terrace and Dews Row section of this history has much to say about Edward's life at Ossett Spa and this will be useful background before reading this section.

The land upon which Spa Mills was built was once fields "*partly covered by water*". In 1813 the Ossett Inclosure map records those lands allotted to owners. The map is shown elsewhere but for ease of reference the relevant part is reproduced again overleaf. There are four key ownerships which, largely comprise Ossett Spa Mill. These adjacent lands are shown in the 1813 map (overleaf) and are;

William Craven 3 roods 11 perches (sometimes shown as two fields of 2 roods 4 perches and 1 rood 7 perches)

Reverend Matthew Dixon 35 perches

William Naylor 2 roods and 31 perches

William Craven 1 rood and 5 perches

In total this adds to 2 acres and 2 perches i.e. approximately 2 acres. The abortive sale of the Mill in 1900 by the Dews family mentions a total of 2 acres and 14 perches; only slightly greater and a difference which can be accounted for by measurement inaccuracies.

Before moving on it is worth commenting that Spa Mill is sometimes referred to as Spa Mills i.e. in the plural suggesting that there were two mills here. It is certain that the mill which stood on the land referred to above was the one built on land, a large proportion of which, is now owned by John Myers. This was the substantial structure and the other mill was much smaller, and is often referred to as dyeworks and sheds.



1813 Ossett Inclosure map showing allotments of land along Emmerson Mill Road (Spa Lane) running west to east where it joins the north to south Ossett and Horbury Road (Spa Street) at Emmerson's Mill (Springfield Mills).

Both Craven and Naylor owned land elsewhere on Spa Lane. Each owned further land along Spa Lane to the west and Craven owned land opposite on the north side of Spa Lane where the Ossett Spa Well still stands and where the two Spa baths would be built in the 1820's. Indeed Craven is credited with establishing one of the baths. Naylor was a pit man and also has land ownerships fronting Spa Street. All of these ownerships can be seen the map reproduced above.

By **1843** land ownerships had changed and the Tithe Award of that year records the land in two ownerships viz Mary Boyne and John Barff. At this stage the area was fields and these were rented to and occupied by Joseph Mitchell and James Arnell (who was also one of the Spa Bath Proprietors).

The **1850** map of the area does not show any buildings on the site but on 18th May **1855** John and Eleanor Barff sell their land ownership of 2 roods and 31 perches (previously Naylor's land) and of 35 perches (which John Barff purchased earlier from Rev. Matthew Dixon Curate of Waleswood Chapel). The purchaser of the land is James Marchent of Bowling in Bradford. In the next 5 years Marchent would become a major player in the development of Ossett Spa. James Marchent was born in Leeds in 1821 and was an Engineer and Millwright in 1861 he is living in Bowling Bradford with his wife and four children. This gave Marchent a foothold on the south side of Spa Lane but there remained 3 roods and 11 perches (previously Craven's land) which he had not been able to acquire to complete a land assembly on this side of Spa Lane. In 1853 this land was in the ownership of Thomas Mitchell he having purchased it from Mary Boyne (the owner in 1843) who in turn had bought from William Craven who held the land in 1813. Marchent didn't have to wait long to acquire this area too.

In November 1853 Thomas Mitchell Cloth Manufacturer sold land on the south side of Spa Lane to Lister Priestley of Huddersfield, Merchant, John Priestley, Merchant and Alfred Sussman of Bradford. The deed refers to "*1 rood and 7 perches being the south part of a larger area of 3 roods and 11 perches lately in the possession of Ezekiel Goldsmith now Messrs Priestley & Sussman and also all that remaining part ...being 2 roods 4 perches...*" Mitchell will have purchased this area from William Craven or his successors between 1813 (Inclosure Order) and 1853 and Goldsmith was occupying it to supplement his income as a gardener and bath keeper.

The Wakefield Journal of 26 May 1854 carried a report of an Inquest held at The Fleece concerning the deaths of two workmen at Spa Mill when an arch leading to the cellars collapsed. The Contractor was called to give evidence and the verdict was accidental death but the report suggests that construction of Spa Mill was well underway in May 1854

On 19 January 1855 the Wakefield Journal carries a Notice (reproduced below) offering Spa Mill and the adjacent Dyehouse for sale by auction and in March 1855 Priestley and Sussman complete a Deed with James Marchent senior and junior for the 3 roods and 11 perches "*together with all that Mill and Dyehouse and all other erections now standing and being thereon*"

This was Spa Mill built in 1854 for Priestley & Sussman and, unusually for Ossett, it was said to have been purpose built as a cotton mill and associated dyeworks.

SPA MILLS, AT OSSETT, NEAR WAKEFIELD.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by Mr THORNTON, at the house of Mr JOHN BERRY, Hare and Hounds Inn, at Ossett, in the County of York, on THURSDAY, February 1st, 1855, at Five o'clock in the Evening, subject to such conditions as shall be produced at the time and place of sale, (unless previously sold by Private Contract).

All that Newly Erected MILL, situate and being at Ossett Common, in the County of York, with the Engine House, Boiler House, Warehouse, Counting House, Stables, Coach House, and spacious Yard within the premises.

Also, all that newly erected DYEHOUSE conveniently situated near the Mill. The whole of the premises with the open yard and vacant ground attached, comprizes one acre or thereabouts.

The length of the Mill is 174 ft. and breadth 110 ft. and the length of the Dyehouse is 90 ft. and the breadth 45 ft.

The whole of the premises have been recently erected in a most substantial manner for manufacturing and dyeing purposes; are well suited for worsted manufactures; and no cost has been spared to make them convenient for the purposes required. The premises are at convenient distances from the important manufacturing towns of Leeds, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield and Wakefield; and are about a mile from the Railway Station at Horbury Bridge.

The property is in the centre of a large coal district.

To view the premises application may be made to Mr Gouldsmith, at the Spa Baths, near the Premises; and further particulars, or to treat by Private application may be made to Mr RADCLIFFE, Architect, Huddersfield; the Auctioneer; or at the Offices of

Mr BARKER,

Solicitor, Huddersfield,

Where a plan of the Estate may be seen.

Huddersfield, January 9th, 1855.

The Wakefield and Halifax Journal 19 January 1855

Subsequently the following notice appeared in the Bradford Observer on 23rd July 1857

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Partnership lately subsisting between us, the undersigned, **JOHN COLE, JAMES MARCHENT, ISAAC WEBSTER, JOHN COLE, the younger, and JAMES COLE**, carrying on business as **Engineers, Millwrights, and Iron and Brass Founders**, at Prospect Mill, in the township of Bowling, in the parish of Bradford, in the county of York, under the style or firm of "**Cole, Marchent, and Company**," was **DISSOLVED**, so far as regards the said James Marchent, on the first day of July instant; and that the said business hath since been, and will continue to be, carried on by the said John Cole, Isaac Webster, John Cole, the younger, and James Cole, at Prospect Mill aforesaid, and under the style of "**Cole, Marchent, and Company**," notwithstanding the retirement of the said James Marchent.

And Notice is also hereby given, that all debts owing to the late firm are to be paid to the said John Cole, Isaac Webster, John Cole, the younger, and James Cole, by whom all debts owing by the said late firm will be paid.

Dated this ninth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

**JOHN COLE.
JAMES MARCHENT.
ISAAC WEBSTER.
JOHN COLE, Jun.
JAMES COLE.**

Witness – **RICHD. BOLTON,**
Clerk to Mr. Jo : Thompson, Solicitor, Bradford.

Having broken away from his partnership at Prospect Mill Bradford James Marchent was free to concentrate on his venture at Ossett Spa. It was clear he meant business for in **1855** he had also acquired land (2 roods 3 perches) to the north of and with a frontage to Spa Lane. This land is shown in 1813 between ownerships of Craven and Mitchell. More importantly he had also purchased Spring End Mill (formerly Emmerson's Mill) and new Dyeworks and the new Spa Mill opposite.

Quite what his intentions were is unclear. Was he intending to be an owner and manager of Cotton Mills at a converted Spring End Mill and a new Spa Mill and dyeworks on Spa Lane or was he a speculator with an eye to land and property consolidation intent on moving it on at a profit as quickly as possible?

Whatever his intentions on 8 December **1860** he conveyed land and property to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Cotton and Mining Co Ltd (and John Cole) as follows;

35 perches previously land held by the Rev Matthew Dixon on Spa Lane south side "*formerly in occupation by James Marchent but now Ezekiel Goldsmith and all that freehold Mill recently used as a scribbling and fulling mill but now converted into a cotton mill called or known by the name of Spring End Mill late in the tenure of Abraham Riley and David Lucas or their assigns but now in the possession of the said Company and also all that freehold croft adjoining the said mill and fronting to Ossett and Horbury Road comprising 3 acres and 19 perches formerly in the tenure of Benjamin*

Fothergill now Reuben Dews" In addition Marchent conveys 2 roods 4 perches, 1 rood 7 perches and 2 roods 31 perches (land previously owned by Craven and Naylor) on the south side of Spa Lane and 19 perches comprising " *all the boiler house engine house and other buildings and all Engines Boilers Cisterns and Tanks and in all that Mill or Shed formerly described as a Dyehouse...and shafting drums and gearing...*"

The Deed tells us that Marchent is selling Spring End Mill (late in the tenure of Riley & Lucas) the new Dyehouse and new Spa Mill with all its engines boilers and so on together with four pieces of land, comprising in total 1acre 2 roods and 21 perches the south of Spa Lane. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company had made their intentions clear in a Public Notice in the Leeds Mercury of 24 April 1860.

The Notice (shown below) specifies the Company's intention to purchase **three** mills two of which are new and one is old. This latter mill is Spring End Mill, formerly known as Emerson's Mill and to be known later as Springfield Mill. The two new Mills are situated on the opposite side of Spa Street and come to be known as Spa Mills. These two new mills comprised a dyeworks (an earlier dyeworks had been situated close by much earlier but the one to be purchased by the Company appears to be new) and a much more substantial mill complex –Spa Mill. These were located on the land now, largely, in the ownership of John Myers.

THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE COTTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY—Limited.

Capital £100,000, in 10,000 Shares of £10 each.

This Company is formed to carry on the business of Cotton Spinning and Manufacturing in all its departments.

The premises intended to be purchased by this Company are situate about half a mile from Horbury and about the same distance from Ossett, in Yorkshire, have been built expressly for the spinning of cotton, and comprise two new and one old mill, with three boilers, three engines, shafting, warehouses, offices, and every convenience. The whole of these premises comprise (including the site of the said buildings) about 5½ acres of land, full of excellent clay for the purpose of brick-making, free from any chief rent, land or other tax, except about £1 6s. 8d. per year, are within about a mile from Horbury Station, and situate in a neighbourhood where coals are cheap, and within a few hundred yards of these mills, and where labour is plentiful.

The profits of this concern will, it is presumed, be on an average of from 25 to 30 per cent.

The Executive Committee will comprise practical workmen, well versed in each department, so as to insure the most economical working of the concern.

Application for shares may be made to, and further information obtained of, Mr. William Hoyle, grocer, New Church-road; Mr. William Tagg, draper, Rochdale-road, Bacup; or of Mr. James Raby, innkeeper, Peel's Hotel, Bury, Lancashire; of Mr. William Sykes, manufacturer, Church-street; Mr. Richard Greenwood, agent, Flatts, Dewsbury; Mrs. Richardson, innkeeper, Horbury; or of Mr. James Stephenson, Temperance Hotel, Broad-street, Halifax, Yorkshire.

D 6375

However it seems that the Cotton Company venture did not go well and in **1871** the Company sell the freehold Spring End Mill and 3 acres and 9 perches of land at the Mill to Henry Oakes. The Deed comments that the Mill was a scribbling, carding and fulling mill converted to cotton and lately worsted.

And on 9th May 1871 the Bradford Observer advertise a sale of Worsted machinery and equipment on the premises of Mr John Robinson Worsted manufacturer of Spa Mill. It would appear therefore that in 1871 the Cotton Company were renting the Mill to John Robinson (though he was also in occupation of Spring End Mill at this time) suggesting that the Company had foregone their cotton manufacturing business before that date. Trade directories have Edward Dews and Richard Holford occupying Spa Mill in 1867, and maybe 1866 indicating they were in occupation before they purchased the Mill in February 1872. This also indicates that the cotton venture at Spa Mill had ceased by 1866.

TO-MORROW.
Ossett Spa Mill, near Wakefield.
 By **Mr. J. E. LINDLEY**, on the premises of **Mr. John Robinson, Worsted Manufacturer, Ossett Spa Mill** (without reserve), on *Tuesday May 9th, 1871,*
THE whole of the valuable **WORSTED MACHINERY** and other Effects. The above to be removed away and cleared from the Premises within Seven Days after the Sale, owing to the expiration of the present tenant's lease:—

No. 1.—Low Room.

One Carding Engine, with 3 swifts 48 inches in the worm.
 One do. do. do. and 1 breast 48 inches in the wire.
 One Winding Machine.
 One Four-Spindle Finisher, 12 inch lift.
 One Six-Spindle do. do.
 One do. do. do.

MIDDLE ROOM.

One Spinning Frame, 112 spindles, 2½ inch lift.
 One do. do. do.
 One do. do. do.
 One do. do. do.
 One do. do. do.
 One do. 128 do. do.
 One do. do. do.
 One do. do. do.
 One do. do. do.
 One do. do. do.
 One Doubling Frame, 110 do. 3½ inch lift.
 One do. do. do.
 One do. 100 do. do.
 One do. do. do.
 One do. 96 do. adapted for 3½ inch or 5 inch lift.

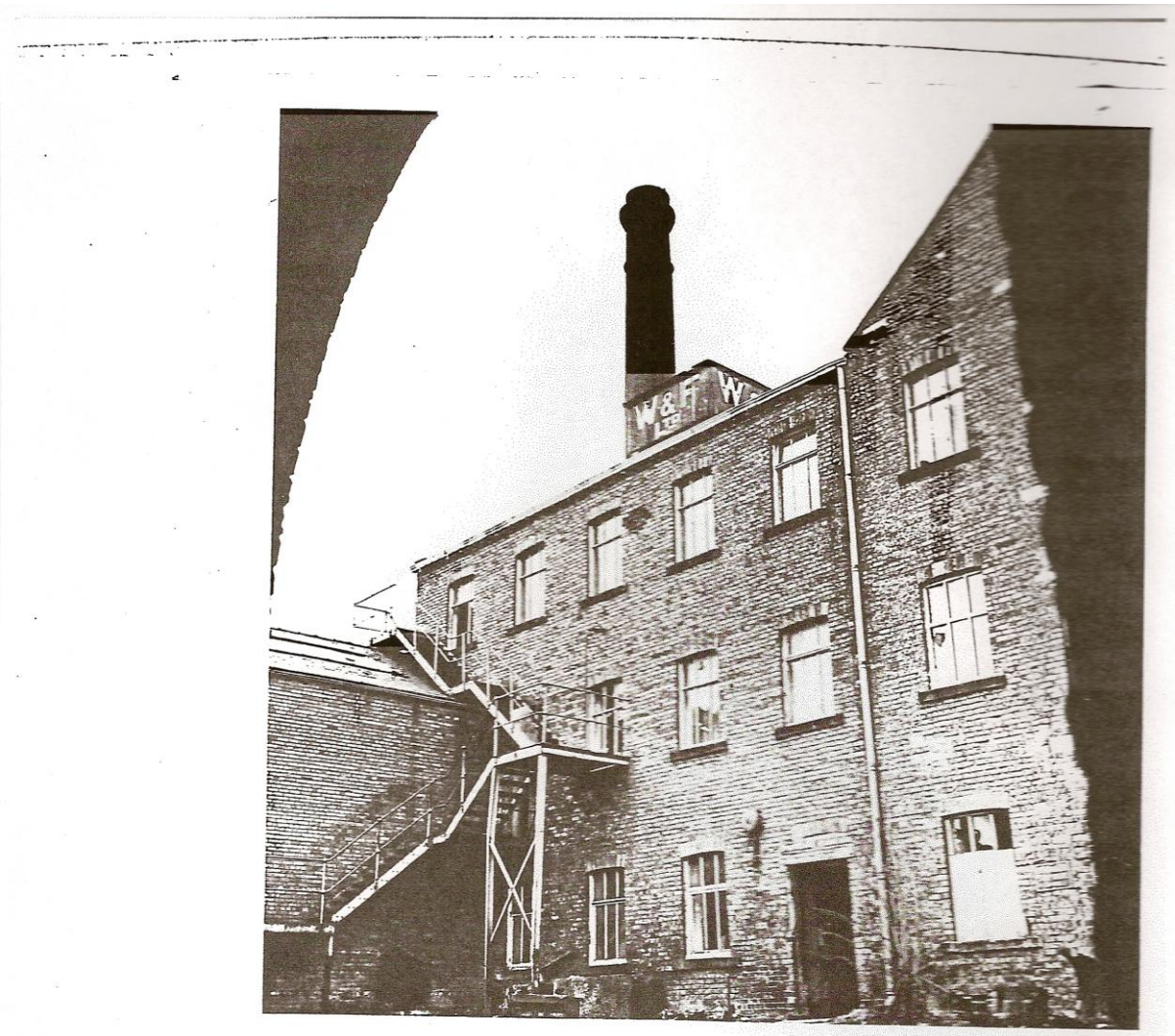
TOP ROOM.

One Doubling Frame, 96 Spindles.
 Lot of Bobbins 3 inch lift.
 Quantity of Guide Pulleys, Scales and Weights, and other Sundry Lots.
 The Sale to take place at Eleven for Twelve o'clock.
 The Mill is situate about 1½ miles from Wakefield, Horbury, and Flushdyke.
 Auctioneer's Office, Tetley House, Kirkgate, Wakefield,
 April 21st, 1871.

This was the second sale of Robinson's equipment (Wakefield Express 21 Jan 1871 and 6 May 1871); the second occasion was the result of Robinson's lease expiring. Dews and Holford were reported as

Spa Mill tenants in 1866 and, presumably, until Dews bought the Mill in 1872. It is unclear therefore whether Robinson was occupying the Spa Mill or the adjacent buildings – the dyeworks – known as part of Spa Mills

On 22 February 1872 the Lancashire and Yorkshire Cotton and Mining Co Ltd (and John Cole of Bowling Iron Founder) entered into a Deed with Edward Dews whereby he acquired 35 perches “formerly in the occupation of James Marchent **deceased**, late of Ezekiel Goldsmith but now of **Messrs Dews and Holford** and also 2 roods and 4 perches formerly in the occupation of Ezekiel Goldsmith after by Messrs Priestley and Sussman now Dews and Holford together **with the Mill or Shed and other erections now standing thereon which said premises were late in the possession of the said Company but now of Dews and Holford** and also 2 roods and 31 perches which was awarded to William Naylor by the Commissioners of the Ossett Inclosure Act and which was formerly in the occupation of William Naylor afterwards by James Marchent deceased late of Ezekiel Goldsmith but now of Dews and Holford and also 1 rood and 7 perches lately in the occupation of Messrs Priestley and Sussman...**together with all those erections thereon**”



Nearby Manor Mill built in 1854 the same year as Spa Mill which is believed to have been four storeys

James Marchent died at his Bishopthorpe York home in 1863 aged 42 leaving a wife and four children. It seems likely that he knew of his illness when he sold his Ossett land interests in 1860 having worked frantically to purchase them over the previous 5 years. Perhaps his illness was also the reason for him leaving his Bradford home and moving to York. Would the history of Spa Mills have been different if Marchent had lived longer to oversee the operation of cotton mills at Springfield and Spa Mills?

Edward's business at the Mill appears to have survived since his purchase from the Lancs and Yorks in 1872 at least until Edward's death in 1890 and perhaps it remained reasonably successful during the following 6 years when Ezra managed the Mill. Not all went well though all of the time as the following report from the Leeds Mercury of 16 May 1875 will tell.

FIRE AT OSSETT.—On Monday afternoon a fire broke out in two sheds adjoining Mr. E. Dews's Spa Mill, Ossett, and burnt for several hours before it was extinguished. The fire was caused, it is thought, by some hard substance accidentally being amongst some material which was in the act of being ground into flocks in a machine rented and worked by Mr. Thomas Robb, a Scotchman, in one of the sheds. A pipe conveyed the ground flocks and dust into a wood shed, and thus both sheds were set on fire. Had the wind not changed suddenly from west to east, the whole mill, a large one, in which worsted is manufactured, would have been in flames in a short time. The buzzer of a neighbouring mill gave the alarm, and many persons assembled at the Spa Mill to render assistance. There was plenty of water at hand, and no fire-engines were sent for. The wood shed and its contents were completely destroyed. The brick shed was much injured, and altogether the damage reached £90 to £100. It is understood that Mr. Robson's loss is partly covered by insurance.

The report indicates the fire broke out in sheds *adjoining* Mr E Dews' Spa Mill. This is confirmation that there were two *mills* here and that the substantial one Spa Mill occupied by Edward Dews and a second – the dyeworks - which was smaller and much less substantial. The location of these smaller buildings was to the south east of Edward Dews' Spa Mill and this too is confirmed by the report's reference to a change in the direction of the wind from west to east; thus saving Dews' SpaMill from fire damage which stood to the west of the dyeworks buildings. The report indicates that the Mill was a large one in which worsted was manufactured. Both Spa Mill and the dyeworks were owned by Edward Dews.

As time went on then so too did the business. There is no evidence of the Richard Holford mentioned as Edward's business partner in 1872 though the 1870 Poor Rate Assessment has him and Dews as occupiers and the Lancs & Yorks Co Ltd as owners. The 1880 Valuation List for Ossett names only Dews, as owner and occupier, and in 1881 the Kelly Directory simply records Edward Dews Yarn Manufacturer Spa Mill. There was however the occasional bit of controversy as the following report from the Leeds Mercury on 30 March 1887 demonstrates.

OUTRAGE AT OSSETT.—Early on Monday morning some evil-disposed person or persons tapped a large steam boiler at Mr. Edward Dews's worsted spinning factory, The Spa, Ossett. About one a.m. the engine man, who lives close by, got up and went out-doors in consequence of hearing a noise, and found the boiler empty. A large key which had been used was also carried some distance away. The other boiler at the mill was not in use at the time, as it was about to be replaced by a new one, and the consequence of this malicious act is to stop the mill for the week.

The 1889 Valuation List for Ossett Township records Edward Dews as owner and occupier of a woollen mill (Spa Mill) but also names Thomas Robb as owner and occupier of rag grinding premises and Benjamin Crowther as owner and occupier (with other Crowthers) of a dyehouse. This confirms that by now, there were separate ownerships/occupations of premises in the locality of Spa Mill which remained owned and occupied by Edward Dews. This record suggests that in 1889 the dyeworks etc were owned and occupied by Thomas Robb (who was there in 1875 – see earlier report of 1875 fire) but Crowthers also owned and occupied the dyeworks.

The location and arrangement of the buildings/dyeworks are shown on the 1890 map and the site plan of 1904 shows "Late Messrs Crowther" as owners of the land which housed the dyeworks and which was to the south east of Spa Mill (probably over the Ossett boundary).

On 23 August 1889 the Factory Times carried a report that Edward Dews was about to transfer the business to his eldest son (Ezra) who was already acting as manager (and living on site). Edward is described as "a just and conscientious master"

Time passed and it appears that Edward's sons Ezra and subsequently Frederick became more involved in the business indeed the memorial of Edward's Will of 15 April 1890 mentions "*all that Mill land and premises including the house occupied by Mr Ezra Dews and the cottage in the Mill yard...known as Spa Mill*". Edward Dews died on Ossett Spa on 26 June 1890 and he was succeeded in the business by Ezra who also died shortly after his father in June quarter 1896. He was 50 years of age and had lived on Spa Lane since at least 1881 with Censuses recording his occupation as spinner (1871), an Overlooker in a woollen mill(1881) and a Yarn manufacturer in 1891. Frederick took over the reins after his brother's death in 1896 albeit briefly for he too was to die young passing away in the March quarter of 1898 aged 44. Censuses had described Frederick's occupation

as a dyer, a cloth miller and in 1891 a Licensed Victualler. Both Ezra and Frederick had been owners of The Fleece in the late 1880's and Frederick was the licensee in 1889.

In affectionate remembrance of
Emma
the wife of
Ezra Dews
who died May 4th 1882
aged 48 years
also of the above named
Ezra Dews
of Ossett Spa
who died June 1st 1896
aged 81 years

In the midst of life we are in death

The above memorial is from the Baptist Lane Burial Ground. I had supposed that this was Edward's son Ezra who was married to an Emma and who died in 1896. However he was only 50 years of age and the writer believes that there may be an error in the transcription. Edward and his wife Annal is also buried at Baptist Lane as is their daughter Annie Maria who died aged 36 in 1887.

So it was that the empire created by Edward Dews was broken up and the Notices from the Leeds Mercury 26 July 1890 (reproduced below) were the beginning of the process.

RE EDWARD DEWS, Deceased.—Pursuant to Statute 22 and 23 Vic., Cap. 25, Sec. 29, Notice is hereby given, that the creditors of and all the claimants against the estate of EDWARD DEWS, late of Whinfield House and Ossett Spa Mill, Ossett, in the county of York, manufacturer (who died on the 23th June last, and whose will with one codicil was proved in the Wakefield Registry of the Probate Division of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 17th July inst., by James Henry Exley, of Whinfield, aforesaid, gentleman, and William Dews, of Horbury, in the same county, innkeeper, two of the executors), are hereby requested to send particulars of their claims to us, the undersigned, on or before the 6th September next, when the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased, having regard only to such claims as shall then have been sent in as aforesaid.—Dated the 19th July, 1890.

HARRISON, BEAUMONT, and SMITH,
Chancery-lane, Wakefield, Solicitors for the said Executors.
Witness—Fredk. Collett Wadgo, Solicitor, Chancery-lane, Wakefield.

NOTICE is hereby given by James Henry Exley, of Whinfield, Ossett Spa, Ossett, in the county of York, gentleman, and William Dews, of Horbury, in the said county, innkeeper, executors under and proving the will, with one codicil thereto, of EDWARD DEWS, late of Whinfield House, and Ossett Spa Mill, Ossett aforesaid, manufacturer, deceased, and EZRA DEWS, of Ossett Spa Mill aforesaid, manufacturer, that the PARTNERSHIP which has for some time past been carried on by the said Edward Dews and Ezra Dews, under the style or firm of "Edward Dews and son," at Ossett Spa Mill aforesaid, in the trade or business of manufacturers, was DISSOLVED by the death of the said Edward Dews, on the 26th day of June last. And notice is hereby also given, that the said trade or business will as from the above date be carried on by the said Ezra Dews alone, at Ossett Spa Mill aforesaid, under the same style or firm of "Edward Dews and son," on his own account. And he, the said Ezra Dews, will discharge all claims and liabilities of the said firm, to whom all claims and demands are forthwith to be sent, and to whom all sums due and owing to the said firm are forthwith to be paid, his receipt alone being sufficient therefor.—As witness our hands this 18th day of July, 1890.

JAMES H. EXLEY,)
 WILLIAM DEWS,) Executors of Edward Dews, deceased.
 EZRA DEWS, surviving Partner.
 Witness to all the signatures—H. Beaumont, Solicitor, Wakefield.

The deaths of Edward and his sons Ezra and Frederick between 1890 and 1898 will have struck a devastating blow to the fortunes of the business and, it seems, none of the other Dews had the ability or the inclination to take over the business at Spa Mill. Indeed the youngest son Edward junior had suffered financial difficulties of his own as the report from the Sheffield and Rotherham Independent of 8th May 1888 demonstrates.

Edward Dews, late of Whinfield House and Ossett Spa Mill, died on 26 June 1890 and his Will was proved at Wakefield on 17 July 1890 by James Henry Exley of Whinfield Ossett Spa and William Dews of Horbury, Innkeeper the son. Exley and Dews were executors. Edward left a total of £ 9618 15s 11d. In current values this is approximately £575,000. The Grocer from Wakefield Westgate had done well.

WAKEFIELD BANKRUPTCY COURT.—Yesterday there was a protracted sitting of the above Court, before Mr. Registrar Mason. Four debtors were examined, the first being Benjamin Milner, grocer and coal agent, Borough Corner, Westgate Common. The examination was closed. The debtor's deficiency was £243. 15s. 1d.—Edward Dews, Junior, draper, Kirkgate, whose deficiency was about £500, next appeared. The debtor, who started business in March, 1887, with money given to him by his father, who afterwards lent him money, accounted for his failure by selling some goods at cost, and others at a very small profit, in order to secure a connection. He calculated that he had lost £337 in business since he commenced. He admitted having sold £600 worth of calico at cost price, and said it was the custom in the trade. The examination was adjourned for a month.—Daniel Shillam, of Goole, late editor of *The Evangelist at Work*, and superintendent of the United Christian Mission at Goole, was next examined. His liabilities are £1134. 16s. 8d., and his assets are estimated to produce £14. 2s. 3d. £800 of his deficiency is in respect of the purchase by the debtor and four other persons connected with the above mission, of a music hall at York, from Mr. Rowe. It was their intention to transform the building into a mission hall. The remainder of the deficiency, about £300, was for printing and advertising incurred on behalf of the mission. The examination was adjourned for a month.

Seven months later in December 1888 Edward Dews junior, draper of Kirkgate Wakefield announces a second and final dividend of 10d in the £.

So it came as little surprise when the remaining Dews family sought to sell Spa Mill in July 1900 but even that went badly as the Leeds Mercury of 26 July 1900 reported almost ten years to the day that Edward Dews had died. The Dews family had suffered a pretty dreadful decade.

OSSETT.—At Ossett, last night, Messrs. Howgate, Chapman, and King offered the Spa Mill, Ossett, recently in the occupation of Mr. Frederick Dews, worsted spinner. The area of the property is 2 acres 14 perches. The highest bid was £800, which was below the reserve, and the lot was withdrawn. A reversionary interest in

The Ossett Observer (28 July 1900) provided a fuller report informing readers that the sale had been held at The Temperance Hall when the auctioneers offered for sale Spa Mill with manager's house garden and accommodation land having a total area of about 2 acres and 14 perches. The lot included the fixed machinery and the buyer was required to purchase the loose equipment at valuation. £500 was the opening bid but subsequent bidding reached £800 but failed to reach the reserve. In current day values £800 in 1900 is worth £45000.

Later that year The Ossett Observer carried a notice for a sale of loose plant and machinery, office furniture and effects on the Spa Mill premises. Having failed to sell the mill as a going concern the Executors took the alternative of breaking it up to realise value. In a major sense this probably signalled the beginning of the end of Spa Mill as a fully fledged mill operation. Any future use would require some major refit of machinery.

The auction was to be held on 26th September 1900 on the instruction of Frederick Dews' executors. The sale included six scribbling, carding and condensing sets, seven Twisting frames, 2100 spindles, hand mule, Avery's platform and beam scale together with a large quantity of loose machine parts, engine and other tools usually found in a mill of this description also 8000 lbs of wool and waste.

In October 1900, having failed to sell the mill and (preumably) stripped it of fixtures and fittings, Harriet Dews and Thomas Marshall, Commercial Traveller, signed over Spa Mill to the Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bank. (WYAS 1900 Deed ref 43 998 492). In 1901 the Ossett Valuation List records the bank as owners of an unoccupied worsted mill. Jessop Brook is shown as the owner/occupier of a shoddy mill which it likely to be the adjacent "sheds"

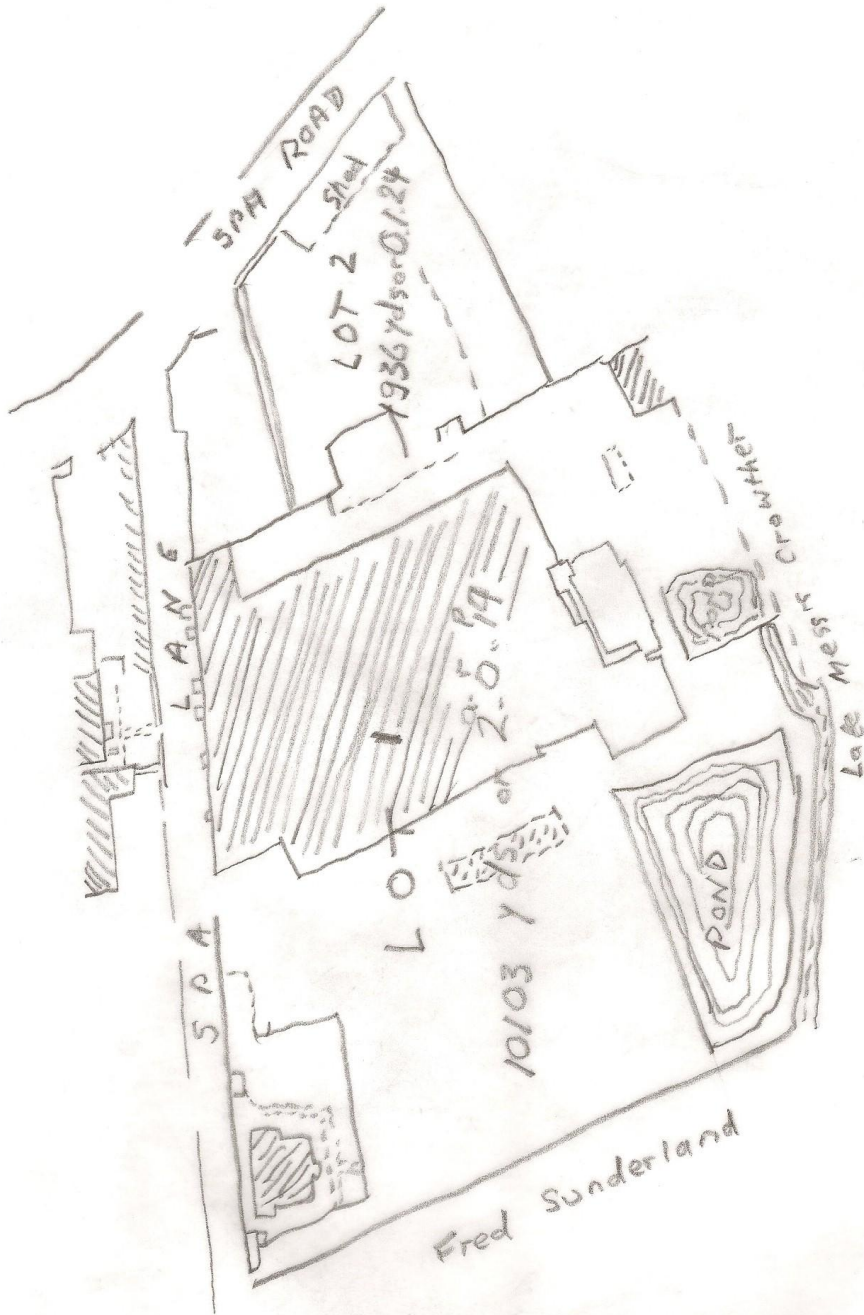
ON 17 March 1904 the Wakefield & Barnsley disposed of their interest in Spa Mill to Elijah Tate, Theodore Medhurst, Annie Potts all of Liverpool. A seperate party to the agreement was Edward Simpson of Walton Hall Soap Manufacturer. It is assumed he was providing funds for the acquisition. The Deed details the land as *firstly* 1936 sq yards...formerly in the occupation of Mrs (blank) Dews, Arthur Child and another but now of Daniel Burns, Herbert Dews and (blank) Jessop.

And *secondly* all that land partly covered by water being 2 acres 14 perches together with the mill known as Spa Mill and dwellinghouse and other erections on the said piece of land.

The plan of the two sites is shown overleaf. The sale documentation and plan again demonstrates the existence of two manufactories at this part of Ossett Spa. The main mill, Spa Mill, standing on the 2 acres 14 perches site and the smaller frontage site (1936 sq yds) with its previous occupiers, including Jessop.

17 MARCH 1904

Nov 13 Page 48 No 23



Later in 1905 Potts and Medhurst sell their interests to Elijah Tate, Rag Merchant . F H Oates is the mortgagee.

On 16 December 1905 the Ossett Observer report a fire on a “portion” of Spa Mill. It was believed the fire began in the carbonising department but by the time the foreman Herbert Squires arrived the fire had spread to the wooden roofs of the buildings which were completely destroyed.

In 1910 the Inland Revenue Valuation records Jessop Brothers as occupiers and Elijah Tate as owner of a flock mill on Ossett Spa and in 1915 the Ossett Valuation List records Fawcett and Co as occupiers and Elijah Tate as owner of “extract works”.

On 29 September 1916 Elijah Tate, formerly of Ossett now of Harrogate, Gentleman and FH Oates (who lent money to Tate secured against the Mill) sells his ownership to Herbert Squires and Henry Archer Fawcett (the Partners) “wool merino extractors carrying on business at Ossett Spa in the style of Fawcett & Co.”. The Poor Rate Valuation List of 1921 shows Fawcett & Co as owner and occupier of “Land buildings and plant”. Jessop Brothers are shown as owners/occupiers of a similar facility (but plainly elsewhere on the Spa). In the 1905 report of a fire at Spa Mill Herbert Squires was described as the foreman of the Mill and in 1911 he is living at nearby Whinfield Terrace.

The land and property sold by Tate to Squires and Fawcett comprise the *1926 sq yds Spa Street frontage and two cottages (formerly one dwellinghouse) and outbuildings conveniences sheds and warehouse and the 2 acres 14 perches together with the Mill known as Spa Mill and dwellinghouse and three cottages with outbuildings conveniences and other erections erected thereon.*

On 30 September 1916 John Henry Glover of Gedham lends £500 to the Partners, secured against the mill and lands. The loan bears interest at 5% and a condition is that insurance be arranged in the sum of at least £500 to include cover as follows;

And so long as Great Britain is at war any European Power or powers against any loss or damage by aircraft or bombardment or by any operation of war or defence whether executed by or against the enemy.

On 14 April 1921 Herbert Squires and Henry Archer Fawcett transfer their interests in the site to their company Fawcett & Co which was incorporated on 2nd April 1921 and had a registered address of Spa Lane Ossett . By October 1929 the Company had defaulted on a debenture resulting in the Bank calling in their charge against the land secured by the loan. The following Deed tells us that the Receiver(Gordon Ball) was selling the land and property with a view to realising what he could to enable the Company’s creditors to be paid.

On 4 December 1929 Joseph Illingworth of Springbank House Ossett Fellmonger entered into a Deed (WYAS 1930 Vol 6 page 382 no. 136) with Fawcett & Co (Ossett) Ltd and Gordon Ball Incorporated Accountant (Receiver) for the purchase of land on the south side of Spa Lane including Ossett Spa Mill. So it was that for £600* (£200 less than the best offer made- and rejected –in 1900) Joseph Illingworth was to acquire Lots 1, 2 and 3 shown overleaf in the plan which is attached to the Deed.

Joseph Illingworth thus became the owner of Lot 2 (1936 sq yds , two cottages – formerly one dwellinghouse – and a shed or warehouse and a Roadway, 8’ foot wide to Lot 1).

* Equivalent to £20000 in current day (2010) values.

Lot 1 (which is Spa Mill) and Lot 3 are described as all that piece of land partly covered by water in total 2 acres and 14 perches.... *“Together with **the Mill known as Spa Mill comprising Warehouse Carbonising Shed Shaking Shed Engine House Store Rooms Stables and Offices with the carbonising and drying plant belonging thereto and the dwellinghouse and three cottages being a part thereof..”***

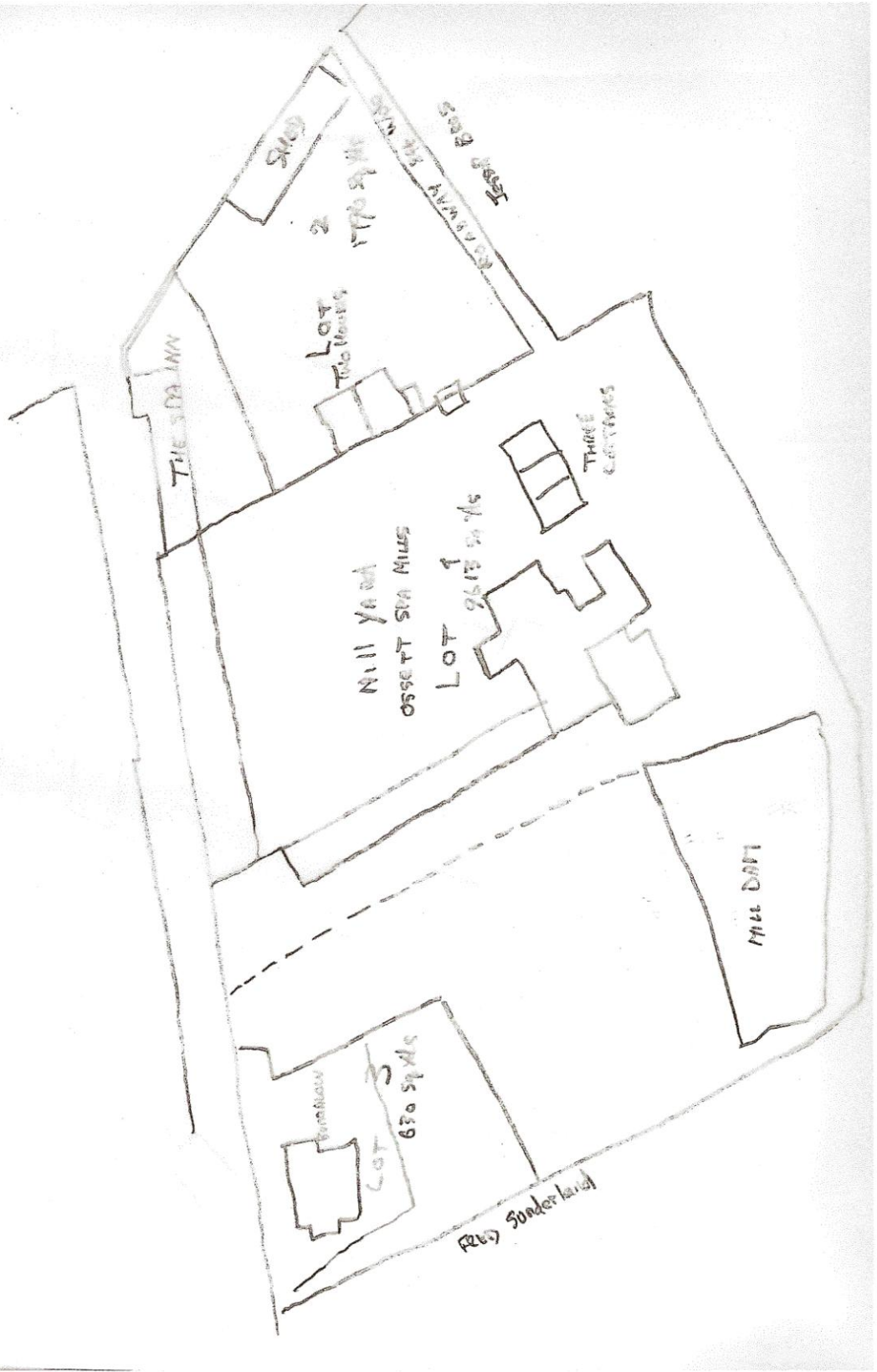
The dwellinghouse referred to above is called “The Bungalow” in the attached plan and in 1931 Joseph Illingworth sells this “brick built bungalow” and 1250 sq yds to Harry Smith of The Bungalow Spa Lane telling us that Harry is already living there, and presumably renting, at the time of his acquisition of his home for which he paid Joseph Illingworth £280 i.e. almost half of the £600 Joseph had paid for all three lots (2 acres or so) only a year or so earlier. Our interest is mainly in the Mill but the Deed by which Joseph Illingworth sells the Bungalow to Harry Smith also tells us that on 14 April 1921 Fawcett & Co had acquired this land from Herbert Squires and Henry Archer Fawcett and that on 29 September 1916 Squires and Fawcett had acquired this land from Frederick Halliwell Coates and Elijah Tate.

“The Bungalow” appears on a 1904 plan of the Spa Mill site and is still standing in 2010 but is now a two storey house. Indeed it seems it always was; the story is that it was built as such but that a previous owner had built up ground around the ground floor level and had constructed a doorway at first floor level in the eastern elevation. Thus the building appeared from outside to be single storey. This doorway, now blocked, can still be seen in the present house which once again has two storeys as a subsequent owner cleared the ground away from the house at ground level allowing the building to be once again as it first was. In August 2010 the house (owned by Fred Burrows) was subject to a police investigation when it was discovered that the house, on the market for sale but being rented pending sale, was being used by the tenant illegally for the growing of cannabis.



“The Bungalow” Spa Lane in August 2010 (Spa Lane is to the rear)

Vol 6 Plan 2597 No 136 1980



The map for 1933 shows the site with the description "Ossett Spa Mills (**Disused**)". In 1923 Illingworth had purchased , from the Goldsmith family, Spa House and the land on which the Spa Baths had been constructed together with an adjacent road frontage which was to become the Fellmongers yard. On 5th December 1940 Joseph sold his interest in that land to his brothers Charles and Godfrey Illingworth for the purpose of their Fellmongering business.

The Mill premises on the opposite side of Spa Lane were next sold on 1st December 1949 by the Illingworths to Frank Chambler, Ice Cream Merchant of 40 Spa Street. The Deed records the vendors as Sarah Emma Illingworth formerly of Kingsway, now of Bradford, George Smith, Accountant of Sowood Avenue Ossett , Thomas Brumfitt Purdy Physician and Surgeon once of Dewsbury and now of Bradford and Charles Illingworth, Farmer, formerly of Spa Farm but now of 48 Sowood Avenue Ossett. Together they represented the estate of the deceased Joseph Illingworth.

Joseph Illingworth had made his Will in on 29 May 1933 and four codicils were signed in 1936, 1938, 1940 and 1942. Joseph had moved to Home Farm Wilton near Pickering and he died on 15 October 1943. Probate was granted 1 November 1944. The Deed of 1st December 1949 recorded Frank Chambler paying £200 for 1936 square yards and 2 derelict cottages, sometime one dwellinghouse and a derelict shed fronting onto Spa Road and secondly all that piece of land partly covered by water comprising 8933 square yards together with the derelict buildings here to known before as Spa Mill and three derelict cottages being part thereof. A plan accompanied the Deed and this is set out overleaf amended by the writer of this history to incorporate subsequent disposals in the later 1950's. These are referred to below.

The Deed also refers to adjacent land ownerships most of which are reported elsewhere but mention is made of the west boundary of this land being adjacent to ownerships by Harry Smith and Fred Sunderland.

On 17 August 1951 Frank Chambler, Ice Cream merchant of 40 Spa Street Ossett sold part of the Spa Mill site "*partly covered by water*" to Fred Douglas miner of 8 Spa Street Ossett. The Deed refers to "*all those buildings erected on part of the land*" and to the proviso that "*the walls of the buildings seperating the property conveyed from adjacent properties were mesne or party walls*" The land to the east of the land conveyed by this Deed continued to be owned by Fred Douglas until two years later when in 1953 he also sold this land to Fred Douglas. The Deed reference to the party walls refers to the walls of the former Mill buildings along the boundary of the land Douglas bought in 1951. This tells us that the Mill buildings were there in 1951 but their condition is unknown.

On 30 July 1953 Frank Chambler sells the remainder of the site to Fred Douglas. The plan attached to the 1951 conveyance Deed appears to show the Mill buildings whereas the 1953 suggests that only the footprint and some walls exist at that time. This suggests that the Mill was largely demolished by Frank Chambler and Fred Douglas, in their respective ownerships, between 1951 and 1953.

Fred Douglas had acquired more Spa Lane property than just the site of Spa Mill and in 1959 he is recorded as selling 1 acre 1 rood 9.5 perches of land known as Timothy Lee Close to Dennis Guy of The Caravan Spa Lane Spa Street Ossett. The land in question is bounded on the west and south by Spa Lane (and so is at the western end of Spa Lane) to the north by land owne by Major Parker and

to the east by now or late by George Riley. Dennis Guy was the landlord of the Fleece Public House between about 1951 and 1957.

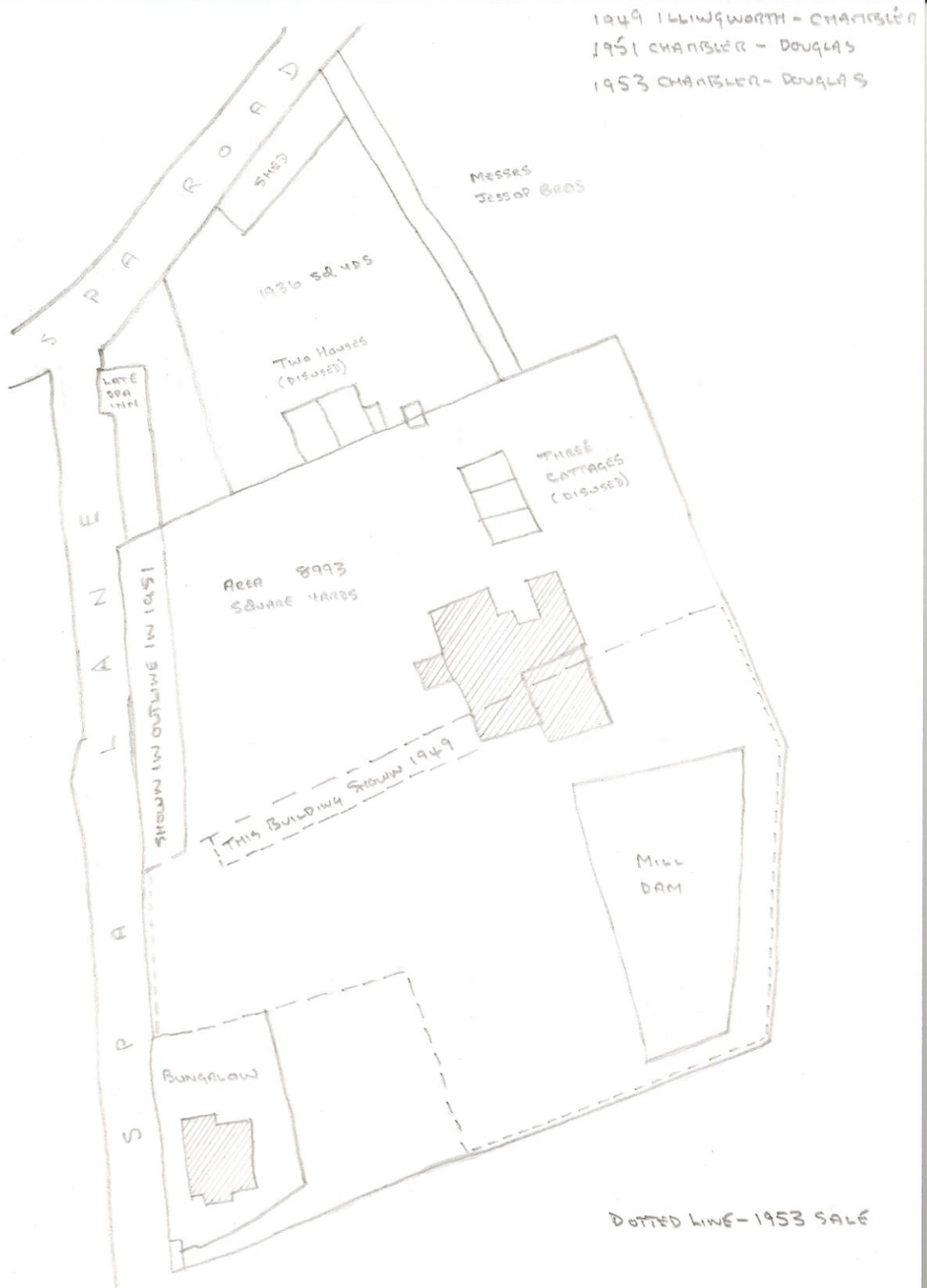
On 31 March 1967 Fred Douglas of 14 Spa Lane Ossett sold land on the north side of Spa Lane opposite the site of the former Spa Public House. For £600 the purchaser Fred Clifford Burrows has bought land at the northern junction of Spa Lane and Spa Street. Fred Douglas had bought this land on 23 October 1947 from Arthur and Enoch Lucas.

Now in the business of selling property Fred Douglas turns his attention to the disposal of the Spa Mill site on the south of Spa Lane and on 7 July 1967 he sells his ownership in the site, and another ownership on the north side of Spa Lane, to John and Joan Miriam Myers of Rose Villas 8 High Street Gawthorpe. The Deed of conveyance specifies the areas of land to be sold.....firstly *“a plot of land, part of two larger pieces conveyed to Fred Douglas on 23rd October 1847 by Enoch and Arthur Lucas on the north side of Spa Lane and also a messuage or dwellinghouse erected on some part of the land and known as 14 Spa Lane”* and secondly *“all that plot of land, part of two larger pieces conveyed to Fred Douglas by two conveyances dated 17 August 1951 and 13 July 1953 by Frank Chamblor..”*

John Myers moved from Rose Villas at Gawthorpe to 14 Spa Lane later that year and thereafter to the bungalow in which he now lives (2010) on the land formerly a part of the Spa Mill site.

The 1850, 1890 and 1933 maps are reproduced elsewhere but a loose copy is also included following for ease of comparison with the written history. Overleaf a plan of the Spa Mill site is also shown and this seeks to reproduce two conveyance plans attached to the conveyance Deeds of 1949 (Illingworth to Chamblor) and 1951/1953 (Chamblor to Douglas). It is worth comparing the 1890 and 1933 maps and then considering them alongside the attached drawing to compare the changes in building footprints in that 60 year period.

The 1890 map shows an open Mill Yard plan fronting onto Spa Lane with Mill buildings along each side, buildings to the rear (south), and a reservoir to the south west of the buildings close to the Horbury boundary and the stream, fed by a spring within the site. A house (probably occupied by Ezra Dews in 1891) is shown to the south of the Spa Inn and the cottages referred to in various Deeds and in the attached plan are also shown.



Spa Mill Plan from Deeds of 1949-1953 showing building outline/footprint

Other than what appears to be a building (but could be the remains of part of the original Mill) along the north side of the Mill site little else appears to have changed but it is clear that in 1933 the Mill is no longer in use. Comparisons with the Deed plans some 20 years later in 1949-1953 are a little tenuous but do reveal that the house(s) and cottages within the site are now disused. The buildings along the Spa Lane frontage and one which runs north to south within the site to join what would have been the main mill appear to be there in 1949 but not by 1953. In a similar manner the surviving part of the original Mill appears to be shown shaded in 1949 but in outline in 1953 suggesting that it had been demolished, or was in the course of demolition between those years. Once believed to have been a four storey mill the only remains in 2010 are a wall running north to south in the centre of the site (see below) and the engine blocks at the southern end of the site. There also appears to have been some re-arrangement of buildings within the site between 1933 and 1950 or so with some demolished and some created though plainly none of (what appears to be) new building would have been to do with the worsted process once carried out at the Mill.



July 2010 – Remaining evidence of Spa Mill. Brick built wall once thought to be 4 storeys

Timeline – Spa Mill(s)

- 1813** Land on which Mill would be built owned by William Craven and William Naylor
- 1843** Mary Boyne and John Barff are landowners & Joseph Mitchell and James Arnell (Spa Bath Proprietor) are occupiers of land partly covered by water
- 1850** Ordnance Survey map shows no buildings on the site
- 1853** Priestley & Sussman purchase land from Joseph Mitchell
- 1854** Spa Mills (Mill & Dyeworks) built . Two workers killed during construction.
- 1855** James Marchent, Bradford Engineer and Millwright buys Spa Mills
- 1860** Lancashire & Yorkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company buy land and also buy adjacent land with Spa Street frontage and Spring End Mill
- 1866** Edward Dews & Robert Holford tenants at Spa Mill as worsted manufacturers
- 1872** Edward Dews buys Spa Mill
- 1875** Fire in sheds (probably Dyeworks) adjacent to Spa Mill
- 1881** Edward Dews Yarn Manufacturer owner/occupier of Spa Mill
- 1889** Edward transfers business to son Ezra. Younger son Frederick also works in business
- 1890** Edward Dews dies **1896** Ezra Dews dies **1898** Frederick Dews dies
- 1900** Mill offered for sale. Fails to reach reserve. Equipment auction later in year. Shortly afterwards Mill signed over to Wakefield and Barnsley Bank
- 1901** Mill unoccupied
- 1904** Bank sell to Elijah Tate and others; by 1905 Tate becomes sole owner and occupier
- 1910** Elijah Tate owner of Flock Mill. Jessop Bros occupiers.
- 1915** Elijah Tate owner of extract works. Fawcett & Co occupiers
- 1916** Herbert Squires and Henry Archer Fawcett buy Spa Mill. John Henry Glover lends £500.
- 1921** Fawcett & Co Incorporated and Squires & Fawcett transfer Mill to the Company
- 1929** Joseph Illingworth buys Mill after Bankers to Fawcett & Co call in Receiver
- 1933** Ordnance Survey map shows Spa Mill as disused
- 1949** Frank Chamblor, Ice Cream merchant, buys Mill site for £200
- 1951-1953** Fred Douglas, miner, buys Mill site
- 1967** John and Joan Miriam Myers buy Mill site
- 2010** John Myers living in bungalow on the site of the former Spa Mill

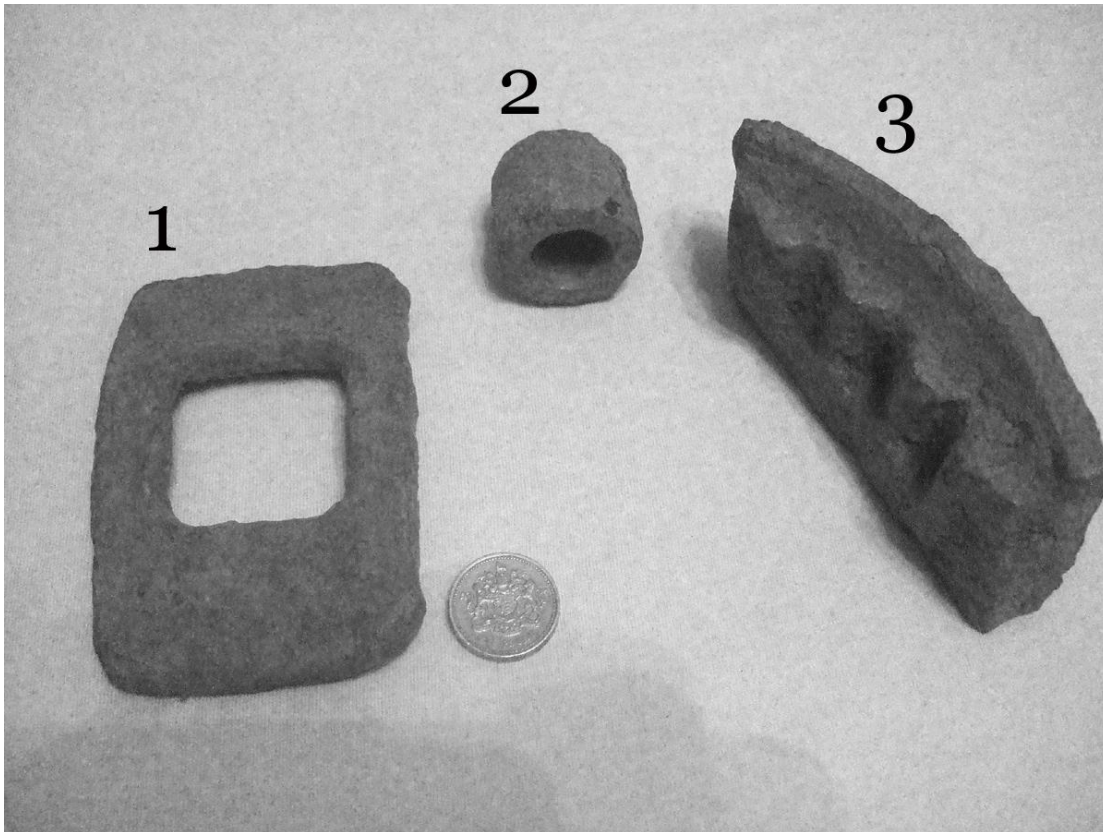
Round House in fields of South Ossett

On the 1795 Manor Map there is shown a “round house” in the spa area of Ossett. It is difficult from this map to ascertain its exact location, but we can make out a few features which can be positively identified. There is the single storey miner’s cottage at the top of Baptist Lane, the “Pauper Park” is across the road from this, and “Whinfield House” is in its own piece of land just to the south of pauper Park. The Ossett / Horbury boundary beck is also clearly visible. Sowood Green (present day Green), and Sowood Farm can also be clearly made out, and comparing this with the modern map we can gain an idea of where this round house was. Jeffrey’s Map of 1771 also shows an engine in this area, and has a figure of a windmill. This is located between the Ossett / Horbury boundary beck and what can be deciphered as the Middle Common area. I am fairly certain that this engine is the same one as the round house on the 1795 map.

The engine would most likely be a pumping engine, used to remove water from the bottom of a coal mine. This leads us to believe there must have been a coal mine there in the 18th century, if not before. If the engine was a wind powered engine then it is notable for this. In the 18th century Thomas Newcomen developed an engine called a beam engine, which was widely used in the larger mines for removing water - this allowed the miners to dig deeper shafts to reach lower coal seams. Maybe the mine here at the spa was only a small affair, and the owners could not afford such a device so continued to use the only available power to them, the wind, hence the windmill device on the 1771 map. The 1850’s Ordnance Survey map shows nothing at all in the area, but on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map a circular feature is shown in a field between Spa Lane and Manor Lane. This field is marked on the 1843 Tithe Award as “Drain Close”. The circular feature could be a building, but is more likely to be a pond, caused by the sinking of the land on the site of a filled-in shaft?

On Friday 23rd July 2010 myself, Alan Howe and Richard Glover walked down to the site of the 1890 circular feature to investigate it. The first thing which became apparent was a land drain along the eastern field boundary. If a pumping engine had been used here, then a drain to take away the pumped water would be necessary. Hence the name “Drain Close” on the 1843 Tithe Award. We searched for any signs of building materials, left over from the demolition of any structures, but there was none immediately apparent. There might have been stones from a stone structure, or bricks (Newcomen’s beam engines were often housed in circular brick structures). No doubt any demolition materials could have been used elsewhere by the land owner. It is of course possible that a wind mill could have been constructed entirely from timber. The only feature which was evident was a slight dip at the edge of the field, right on the place where the 1890 map shows the circular feature. (Was this deeper in 1890 and prone to flooding, showing on the map as a pond?) We decided that an investigation with a metal detector might yield a few hidden clues.

On the evening of Monday July 26th myself and Alan Howe took my metal detector to the site and spent two and a half hours searching the vicinity of the 1890 map feature. The first thing I noticed was the amount of coal fragments in the soil. This could be an indication of spoil from a coal pit in the field. The finds were mainly copper-alloy buttons dating to no earlier than the beginning of the nineteenth century, as well as a few other non-ferrous finds, which would be categorised as personal losses by the people who worked the field. (In 1843 it was described as arable). However the actual site of the dip on the eastern edge produced three iron finds.



Number 1 is made of wrought iron and is slightly curved. The hole in the centre shows sign of wear in the corners, as if something passed through it during its use. This item appears to be the oldest of the three.

Number 2 has the hole going right through. It's thickness is not quite uniform. There is no regular shape to the outside, other than what could be described as rounded.

Number 3 appears to have had a toothed wheel running around the inside. The item (fragment) has traces of red paint on the outer edge (hidden from view in the photo). This leads me to believe that it could be possibly later than the site.

In conclusion it appears that something has been here on the site, and a more thorough investigation with a metal detector may yield more finds which could be identifiable as remnants of an engine house. It is likely that the round house was the housing of an engine used to pump water from the base of a coal mine on the site.

Ossett Spa Timeline

Pre 18th Century Ossett Spa was part of Ossett Lights – mainly woodland

1770 's Map shows Engine/Windmill at or near Ossett Spa. Emmerson's Mill working

1790 Estate Map shows Round House, Steam Engine and buildings on Ossett and Horbury Road (Spa Street) including at or near The Fleece, Worker's Cottage, Whinfield House.

1813 Inclosure Order Map shows land ownerships. Emmerson, Craven, Naylor and Mitchells are key owners. Paupers Park adjoins Manor Road. Other Buildings shown

1820's Spa Baths constructed by James Wade and William Craven. Dwellings on Spa Lane

1830's Ginns Corn Mill worked by Joseph Ginn.

1850 Map shows "The Fleece Inn", Ginns Corn Mills, Spring End Mill Whinfield House and buildings north side (Spa House?) and at end of Spa Lane

1854 Spa Mill & Dyeworks built for Priestley & Sussman

1860's Edward Dews arrives on Ossett Spa. Major development of Ossett Spa. Whinfield Terrace and Dews Row built by Dews. Spa Inn and other housing built on Spa Lane. The Lancashire & Yorkshire Cotton & Mining Company Ltd buy Spring End Mill & Spa Mills

1870's New Harrogate proposals nearby

1880's New Montpellier Gardens proposals nearby. Sewage Works built.

1890's Edward Dews(1890) and sons Ezra (1896) Frederick (1898) deaths

1900 Spa Mill put up for sale

1920's Illingworth's Fellmongering business built up

1933 Spa Mill "disused"

1940 Spa House and Spa baths demolished. Spa Well remains

1950's Spa Mill demolished (largely)

1960's (post) Demolition of other Spa Lane housing and Spa Inn, Ginns Mill.

Reflections

This history was prepared in draft in August 2010 and in this form in October 2010. The thing about history is that the memory and writing of it constantly change as more information emerges about the localities and times in which our ancestors lived. But an important opportunity is often missed if those who were here don't commit their thoughts to paper for those who follow.

Overleaf an article of 1969 is reproduced where 60 year old Stanley Ross recounted a little of his life on Ossett Low Common and it is hoped that others will take the trouble to do the same. Much of the above history deals with pre 1950 and much since then is still within the living memory. Do you remember when Hope Mill and Dews Row were demolished? What did they look like? Who lived there? If you grew up on Ossett Spa or somewhere close where did you play? Did you attend Spa School? Who were the local characters? When did other "new" commercial buildings and housing get built? Do you have photographs of the Ossett Spa which could form a part of this history?

You get the point. So if you do have some of those memories please commit them to paper or get in touch with me and I will on your behalf.

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Ossett Common

50 years ago

Former resident's memories

SOME memories of Ossett Common—probably the sector of Ossett which has undergone the greatest changes in recent years—and its personalities of half a century ago have been penned by a former resident, Mr Stanley E. Ross, of 9, Brighton Road, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley.

I am sixty years old. No great age, of course, but enough to go back and recall events in Ossett which have almost passed into oblivion.

I spent my boyhood in the Ossett Common district, at the time of gas mantles, milk-from-the-can-at-the-door, rough muddy roads, ruddle-on-the-doorstep, and so on. My contemporaries were the Fawcetts, Dews, Listers, Watsons, and we played cricket in summer and football in winter on the "Harrogate" (how did it get that name?), a piece of common land down by Junction Lane.

We all went to Spa Street Council School, and we boys all wore knickerbockers, and large white collars (the girls wore long frocks and, I believe, long black stockings).

NOVELTIES

Many who read these lines will remember penny lucky bags from "Millie Anns", a little cardboard frame, glass negative and sensitised paper which you held to the sun and printed a picture for a penny (from Stringers); the "Mountains"; Mr Rusby the schoolmaster; the lamplighter with his long pole at dusk . . .

I was a keen follower of Ossett Common Rovers, the local soccer team in their black and white striped shirts. Who can remember Grace, Griffin, Elliott, Kitchen? They were my heroes.

Of all the events in those far-off days, the one which stands out most in my memory is that of the horse. This poor nag had, we were told, been through shot and shell in the 1914 war, and was now pulling a milk cart for a local farmer. Very slowly it used to drag itself along, until one summer evening it lay down

in a corner of the field and could not get up.

It was decided to end its days, but at that time you did not always send for the vet to give a humane death; you did the best you could, and in this case another farmer was called in, and along he came with his pick axe to do the job.

PLEASANT WALK

Memories! But the scene has changed and the picture in my mind would be spoiled if I went back to some of my old haunts. I should not care to re-visit Manor Lane, which when I was young was a pleasant country lane, with hedgerows where thrushes and blackbirds built their nests, leading through a stile at the bottom and across the corner of a field, where on a small rough bridge you crossed a stream, and on over Manor Fields to Horbury.

In those days, the only car we ever saw there belonged to Metcalfes', the owners of the mill. The other traffic was horse-drawn wagons, coal carts, milk floats. We could safely play ball all the way home up Manor Road, and in the Spring, marbles by the roadside was very popular. It took a long time to get home playing marbles all the way.

There were two mills down there — Metcalfes and Jessops, and I can vividly remember a great blaze one night at the former, with the firemen in their gleaming helmets doing all they could, but to no avail — the mill was gutted.

We got our enjoyment from simple toys — a tin lid pierced with a central hole through which you pulled a piece of string with a knot on the end. It rolled along beautifully by



Mr S. E. Ross. 1909

your side as you ran. Then there were iron hoops, or "bowlers", as we called them. You guided your "bowler" with an iron hook, and covered a lot of ground. If the hoop broke, as often happened, you took it to a blacksmith down Spa Lane who would mend it for a penny.

We had happy excursions on Saturdays. We would go to the "Rock" (down Storrs Hill) or Coxley Woods, or for a longer walk to Woolley Dam or Bretton Park. Chars-a-banc, with their solid rubber tyres were then popular. They must have been slow, for I recall a trip in an open Char-a-banc to Scarborough which took all day, leaving about 6.30 a.m. and returning at night.

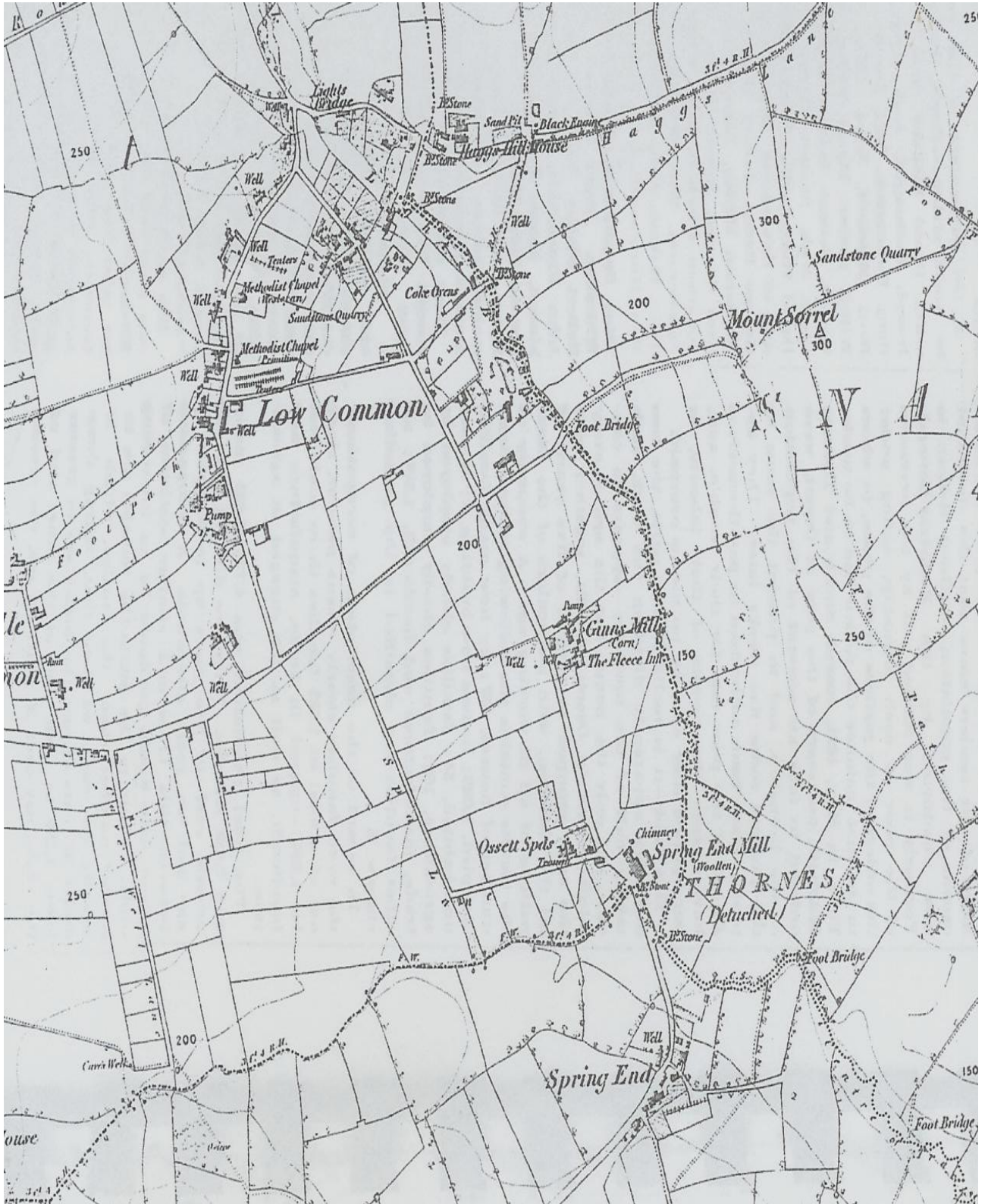
WAGONETTES

But the most exciting trips were 'Waggonettes', run by the Sunday School on Saturday outings. One long bench facing the front and two back to back were roped on a flat wagon, and parents and children mounted by the wheel hub and sat on the benches.

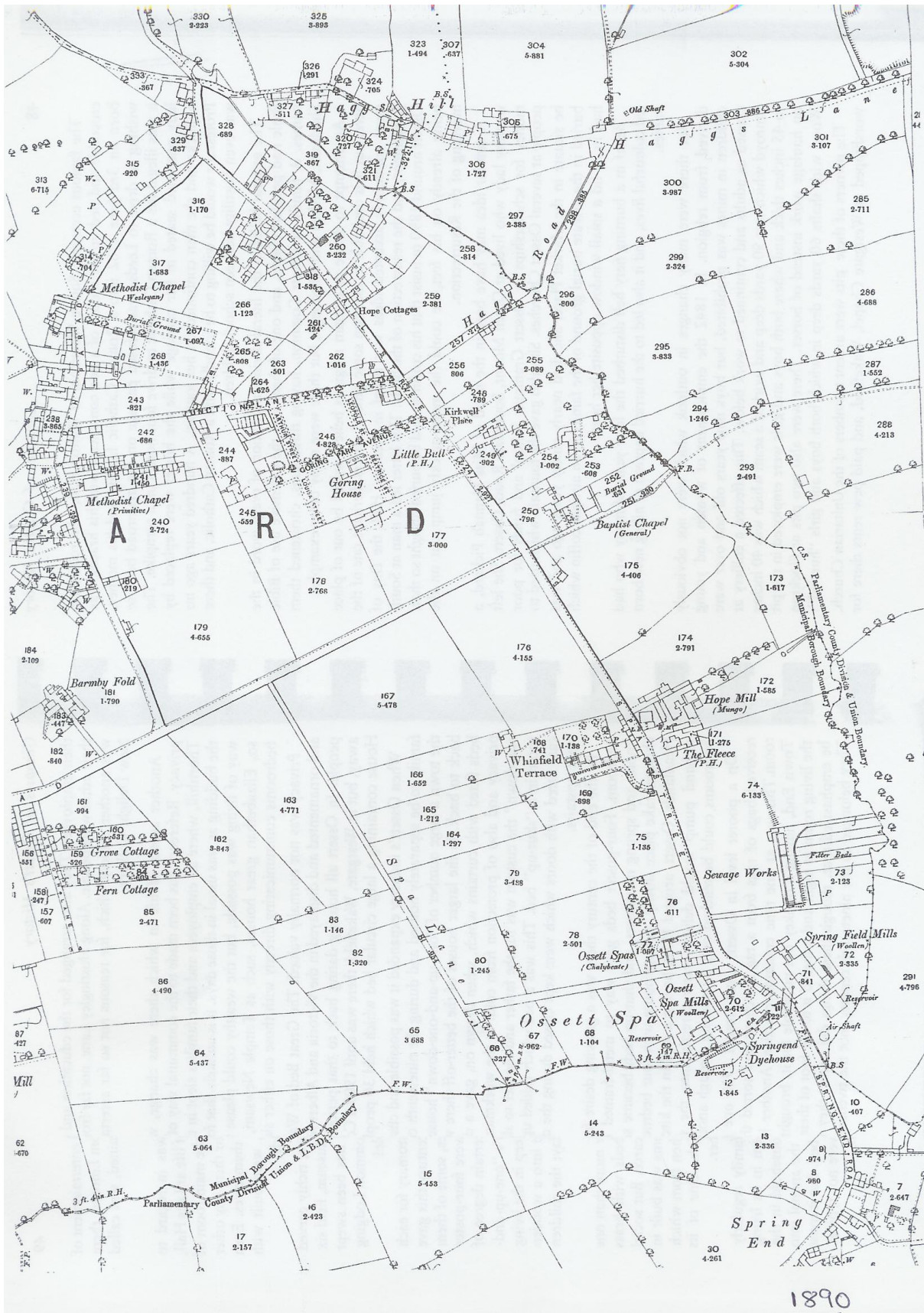
Here was a healthy means of travel, but a rather dangerous one, for although the horses did not gallop (except when nearing home at night) all that held those children to the seats was gravity and their own hands! A favourite run was to Sandal Castle Hill, where we had a picnic tea and played games.

Why do we think so much of our younger days? I think it is partly because we tend to remember most the happier times, and we know that they can never come back.

Ossett Observer 1969



Ossett Spa 1850



Ossett Spa 1890



Ossett Spa 1933

