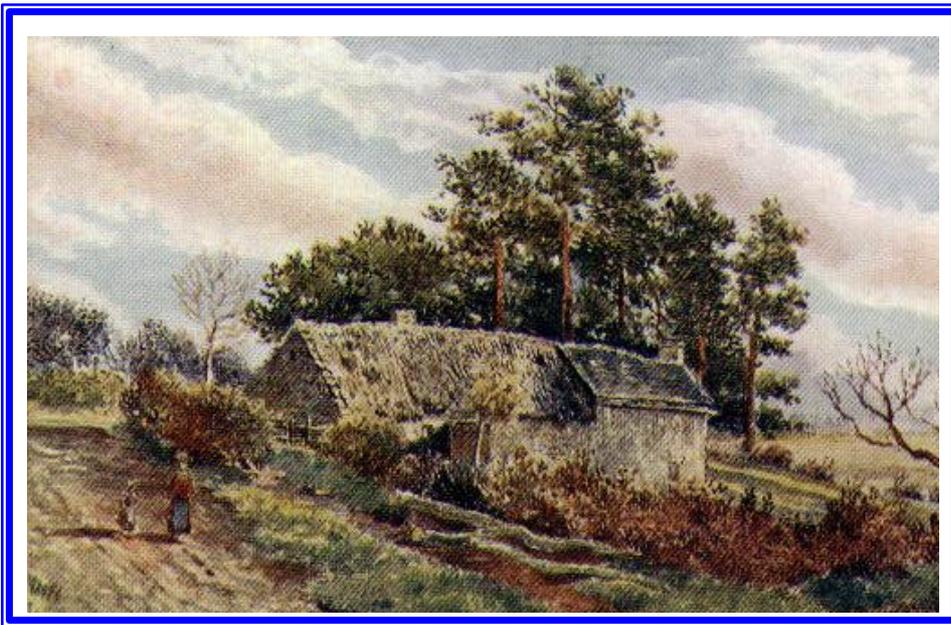


Hanging Green Cottages

Introduction

In 1845 there were two pairs of cottages close to Hanging Green Lane and both pairs have been referred to as "Hanging Green Cottages". To avoid further confusion I will refer to the pair of cottages which stood on what is now the Memorial Hall Ground as (1) and the pair which still stand opposite the Church as (2).

Hanging Green Cottages (1)



Hanging Green Cottages are both indicated on the plan of the area dated 1817 after the ground had been enclosed. "Helen Sharples Cottage" is written in pencil on one of the cottages and also the Memorial Hall site is indicated in pencil. The pencil additions must have been made in the early years of this century just before the Hall was built. Each cottage had just over a third of an acre of garden and belonged to the Township of Slyne-with-Hest as did the Tithe Barn at Slyne and the Pen-fold. This land is still owned by the village today. From a painting of about 1820 we can see that the two cottages were attached and one half had a thatched roof. In the background is a plantation of young pine trees possibly planted as a wind break, two old pine trees remain today and may be two of the ones we see in the painting.

A path called "Occupation Road" is drawn onto the map between the cottages and the location of the Hall. On the other side of Hanging Green Lane directly opposite the end of Peacock lane were a large number of old farm buildings owned by Thomas Butler of Bolton -le-Sands. This gentleman was the Rev. Butler, husband of Rebecca Stout the heiress of the Hatlex estate.

When the Parish Council came into existence in 1894 it acquired both these cottages, one still had a thatched roof and an earthen floor and was in such a dreadful condition that it had to be demolished. This one is referred to as number 291 on the 1845 Tithe map. The other cottage, number 289, survived until the 1940s and many people in the village remember it as "Mary Ellen's Cottage". The cottage was very small, a "two-up and two-down" with very low ceilings and presumably very basic sanitary facilities.

The Cumpsty Family.

Henry Cumpsty lived in number 291 in 1841 with his young wife Ann and three children. We first see the name in the 1841 census return and we can track the births and deaths in this typical Victorian working class family over the next thirty years:

Number 291. (Then called Hanging Green Cottage.)
Henry Cumpsty, aged 25, an agricultural worker, paid one penny in tithes to the Vicar of Bolton-le-Sands.
Ann, his wife, aged 20.
John, aged 4.
Mary aged 2.
Richard, aged 6 months. [Census return 1841]

In the 1851 census Henry Cumpsty was described as being born "somewhere in Slyne". The family included Thomas, Elizabeth and Mary Rose but sadly baby Richard had not survived. Henry had changed his employment to railway worker and Ann was listed aged 35 which means she had gained an extra five years on her age since 1841!

Ten years later the family were still there but little Mary Rose, who must have been Elizabeth's twin, had died. Son Thomas was now referred to as James and new arrivals Robert and Henry were eight years and four years old respectively.

Henry Cumpsty, aged 55, Railway Labourer, born in Slyne.
Ann Cumpsty, aged 45, wife.
James Cumpsty, aged 14, scholar.
Elizabeth Cumpsty, aged 10, scholar.
Robert Cumpsty, aged 8, scholar.
Henry Cumpsty, aged 4. [Census return 1861]

The death of the eldest son John Cumpsty, aged 27, was recorded in 1865. The older children had left home by 1871, Henry was again working as an agricultural labourer and so was his son Robert. Henry Cumpsty died aged 67 at Slyne in 1873 and his wife Ann died ten years later in 1883, aged 57. It is clear that there were difficulties with Ann's age all along because she must have been 62 if the age recorded in the 1841 census was correct!

After that time the Cumpsty family are not mentioned and even though they were still living in Slyne in 1881 they are not recorded in the Census of that year. The Cumpsty family had long connections with Slyne village and records exist in the Bolton-le-sands Church register as far back as 1727:

1727: Richard Cumpsty of Sline, joiner, married at Bolton, witness. John Statter, Fran Bryer.
1729: Richard Compsty and Mary Marshall, spinster. both of Slyne, parish Bolton, Bondsman.
Births:
1731: Ann, d. of Richard Cumsty, of Sline.
1734: Elin, d. of Richard Cumstead, of Sline.
1736: William, s. of Richard Cumstead, of Sline.
1759: Richard Cumpsty is a resident, of Slyne.

The Sharples Family

After 1871 the Sharples family came to live in the cottage and in the 1881 census it is described as "Township Cottage". They had a baby daughter aged 1 year who must be the Mary Ellen remembered today by our senior citizens.

No. 64, Township Cottage.
Thomas Sharples, head of household, aged 31, general labourer.

Mary Sharples, wife, aged 31.
George William, aged 4, son, scholar.
Abraham Jackson Sharples, son aged 3.
Mary Ellen, daughter, aged 1. [Census return 1881]

The house is referred to again as Hanging Green Cottage in 1891 when Thomas had taken up employment on the railway. Son Abraham was employed as a servant:

Thomas Sharples, aged 44, Railway Plate layer.
Mary, wife, aged 41.
Abraham Jackson Sharples, aged 13, servant, working.
Mary Ellen, daughter, aged 11, scholar.

The final reference to Mary Ellen was in a village directory of 1933 when the cottage was referred to as "Goose Green".

The Misses Betty and Molly Derham of Hest Bank Lane remember clearly the one cottage on this site occupied by Mary Ellen Sharples, and this was in the late 1920's or early 30's. There was a well in the garden from which she obtained her water supply, it was fed by the Hatlex Brook which was an open stream until it went under the canal in a pipe. It was a popular sport for young boys to crawl through this pipe! At the bottom of Hatlex Lane was a waterfall as the stream descended to the level of what is now the Coastal Road.

Hanging Green House

The other part of the twin cottages was known as Hanging Green House in 1841 and referred to as number 289 on the 1845 Tithe map, this part was demolished in 1894. The first tenant was John Shaw living with his wife and three children:

John Shaw, aged 50, agricultural labourer, born in Slyne, paid 2d in tithes to the vicar of Bolton-le-Sands.
Betsy, wife, aged 45.
Thomas, aged 9.
Agnes, aged 6.
William, aged 2. [Census return 1841]

In the 1861 census we find John and Betsy living with their grandson William:

John Shaw, aged 74, labourer.
Elizabeth Shaw, aged 65.
William Shaw, grandson, Railway Labourer. [Census return 1861]

John Shaw died in 1867 aged 80. After this time Elizabeth went to live with her son Thomas in Slyne until she died in 1871, aged 79. Thomas, the eldest son of John and Elizabeth, appeared to fair well, he married Jane and by 1891 they had seven children. John, their eldest son was a Driller, Thomas aged 19 was a Steam Hammer Driver and William Henry was an apprentice. One daughter was a dressmaker and another was a servant at Hest Bank Lodge.

The cottage is referred to as "Township Cottage" in the 1881 Census. Living there was Richard Taylor, aged 23 who had grown up at Bottomdale Farm. He was married to Jane, aged 30.

From the 1891 census we find Abraham Jackson aged 64 in residence. Abraham was a signal man on the Railway who had previously lived in the Station Cottage, it is possible he was semi-retired. Living with him was his wife Isabella, aged 68, and a granddaughter Isabella aged 17, she had lived with them since childhood. It is interesting that Thomas Sharples, the next door neighbour, named one of his sons after Abraham Jackson.

Hanging Green Cottages (2)



This pair of cottages is situated opposite to the entrance of St Luke's Church and is designated a grade II listed building. They are listed on the 1845 tithe map as numbers 282 and 283, and the current addresses are 2 and 4 Hanging Green Lane. In recent years there has been significant restoration of the structure. The city council guide to listed buildings gives the following description:

Mirrored pair of planned cottages, early C19th. Roughcast, with sandstone dressings and slate roof. Hipped roof with overhanging eaves, central stack and doors on return walls. 2 storeys. Front wall of two bays, one for each cottage. Windows sashed with glazing bars in plain stone surrounds (left-hand ground-floor window boarded up and not visible). Return walls blank apart from porches of sandstone slabs, the porch to the left-hand house now having a modern door.

During the 19th century most of the inhabitants were families with the father in manual occupation, usually agriculture or the railway. The owner in 1845 was Thomas Greene. In total the plot measures 1 rood and 13 perches. At various times the cottages have been known as Goose Green Cottages (postcard 1910) and Garnett's cottage (postcard 1917). Here is a chronological list of occupants gleaned from the census returns and the village directories:

1841 Census John Poole, aged 32, gardener, born in Lancaster. Martha, aged 19, wife. John, son, aged 1. moved to Slyne; still there in 1881, aged 72.
1845, owned by Thomas Greene, tenanted by John Poole, number 282, house and garden.
1861 census: no.45, Hanging Green Cottages, John Keen, aged 56, Railway Plate layer. Mary, wife, aged 52. Thomas Holme Keen, aged 19, Railway worker. Elizabeth, daughter, aged 8, scholar.
1861 census, Thomas Gardner, Railway Plate layer, born in Slyne, aged 40. Elizabeth, wife, aged 37. Richard, son, aged 11 months.
1871 census: no 37, Hanging Green, Thomas Gardner, aged 50, agricultural labourer. Elizabeth, wife, aged 46. Richard, son aged 10, scholar. Alice, aged 6, daughter.
1881 no. 63, Hanning Green Cottage, Thomas Gardner, head of household, aged 60, general labourer. Elizabeth, wife, aged 57. Alice Ann, daughter, aged 16.
1891 no 53, Hanging Green, Thomas Gardner, aged 70, agricultural labourer. Elizabeth, wife, aged 67. Richard, son aged 30, single, agricultural labourer. Alice Ann, daughter, aged 26, single.
!891 other half of cottage, Joseph Nixon, aged 50, Market Gardener of Hanning Green. Margaret, wife, aged 49.
1896: Thomas Gardner, cottager, Hanning Green.[register]

1896: W. Garnett, gardener,[register]

1920: Hanging Green Cottage and Garden, Frederick Garnett, 1 rood 13 perches, rent £13-10s-0d. [Dawson Green estate, sale notice]