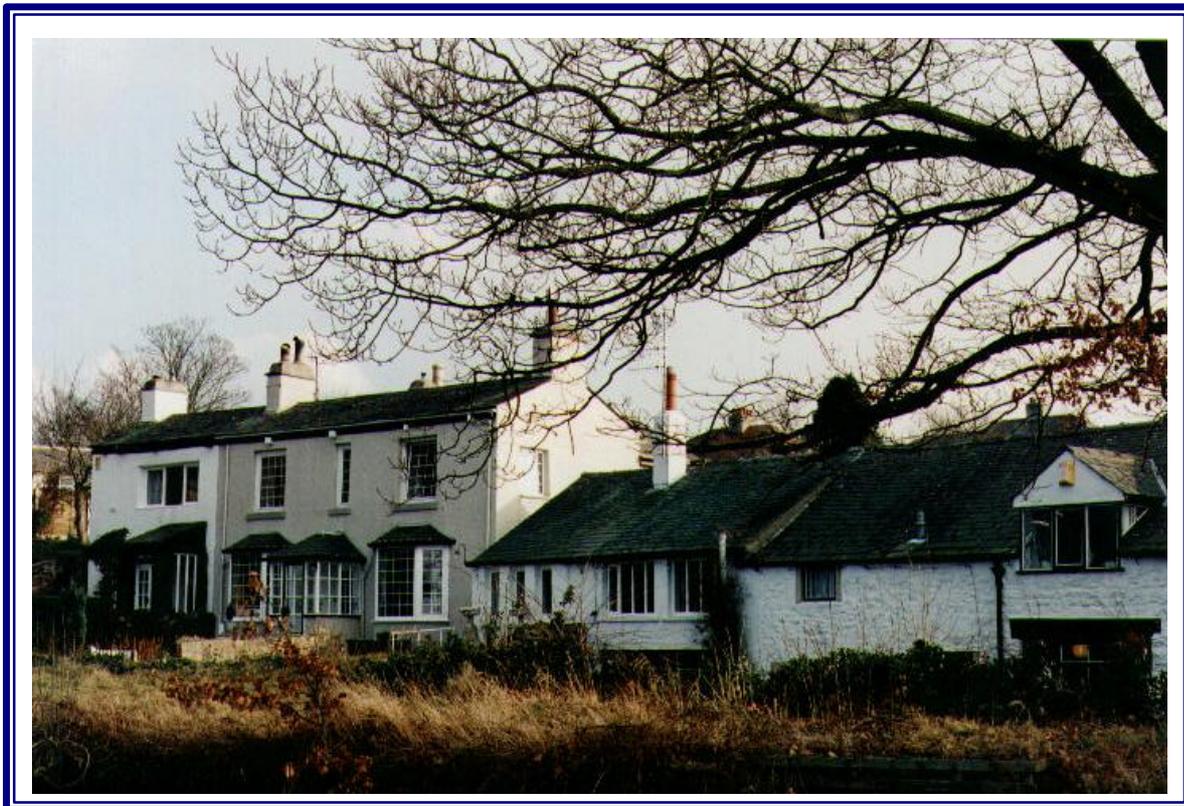


Hatlex Cottage (now known as Hatlex House)



Hatlex Cottage was probably built in 1769 by Leonard Stout the younger or by his son William Stout. This cottage was a beautiful four to five bed roomed house set in four acres of land forming a 'mini estate' within the Hatlex estate. William Stout was the only surviving son of Leonard and he married Ann Jackson in 1762. By 1769 they had three young sons, Thomas aged six, Josias aged eight and Leonard aged four. Hatlex Cottage with its own barn and stables must have been built for one of the family members and William and his wife are the most likely candidates. They had another child Rebecca who was born in 1770 probably at Hatlex Cottage. William was a maltster and a Freeman of the City of Lancaster, his sons also became Freeman, Thomas in 1783 and Leonard in 1785.

1783-84. Stout Thomas, of Hatlocks in Slyne, gentleman, son of William.

1785-6. Leonard Stout, the younger, of Hatlocks, gentleman, son of William of same, malster.

[List of Freeman]

Tragedy came to this family in 1784 when Thomas Stout, described as a Gentleman, died aged twenty one. Four years later in 1788 his father William died, aged fifty four and by 1790 both Josias, aged 29, and his mother Ann were also dead leaving Rebecca, then aged 20, a considerable heiress to her father's and grandfather's estates. We do not know what happened to the young Leonard, and can only assume that he must have died sometime between 1786 and 1790. At that time Rebecca would presumably have moved into Hatlex House and the small estate of Hatlex Cottage would have been rented out to tenants until it was for sale in 1894. (Lot Two of the Hatlex Estate.) The tenants were always professional people or families of some wealth.

In the sale notice of the Hatlex Estate of 1894 it is described as follows:

....a valuable Freehold Residence, with Pleasure Grounds, Vegetable Gardens, Orchard, Vinery, Stable and Barn, its extent 3a or 13r, excellent Pasture adjoining: in whole about 4 acres.

The Cottage was sold for £530.

The House in 1769

It obviously takes some guess work to describe the house as it was in 1769. The cottage now attached on the east side was part of the house, and that section probably contained the utilities, kitchens and buttery, on its upper floor were at least two bedrooms. The main part of the house, now known as Hatlex House, contained two large sitting rooms and two master bedrooms, all these rooms were of high quality and it was definitely a house for a yeoman!

Features that we see today inside Hatlex Cottage give an indication of its original plan. Under the plaster there are doors on both levels leading into the smaller cottage. A new staircase has been erected, presumably because the old one is in the smaller cottage. This makes some sense when we realise that all the families who lived in the house had servants. In fact in 1841 two families were living there.

How did all this change to give us the present row of cottages? Everything we see today was there in 1769, except Lilac Cottage. The canal came in 1795 and before then Hatlex Cottage would have looked down on sweeping fields to Hatlex House. There were no other buildings at that time but Hatlex Lane did exist. Most properties of this kind had a barn and stables to house their horses, traps or carriages. The barn which stood on the corner of the estate was converted into a house and in 1946 Hatlex Cottage was split into the two separate properties. Even later Lilac Cottage became an infill between the barn and Hatlex Cottage.

A female ghost is said to walk the staircase of Hatlex Cottage. Some people feel that this apparition could be the sad Ann Stout who had a such a troubled life.

Inhabitants of Hatlex Cottage

The first people to build and live at Hatlex Cottage were probably members of the Stout Family. I have not been able to trace any tenants from 1790 to 1841 but hopefully this may be possible in the future. In 1841 there were two families living at Hatlex Cottage and in the census it is listed as Hatlex Cottage, Bolton-le-Sands:

Thomas Mason, aged 37, Attorney at Law.
Jane Mason, aged 36.
Thomas Mason, aged 14 mos.
Ellen Talbot, aged 30, female servant.
Margaret Shackleton, aged 26, female servant.
Hannah Davies, aged 19, female servant.
Walter Heinde, aged 40, clerk to Thomas Mason.
Janet Heinde, aged 31.
James Heinde, aged 11.
Jane Coup, aged 28, female servant. [Census return 1841]

In 1854 there is a death notice for the wife of a Mr. James Hall living at Hatlex Cottage, we know that the Halls were owners of the Hatlex Estate and she was possibly a relative whom they had installed in the Cottage.

1854. Hatlax Cottage, on the 21st of Feb., Mary, wife of Mr. James Hall, aged 67.
[Death notice, Bolton le Sands.]

One year later we see from a village directory a Mr. James Wilson living at Hatlex Cottage:

1855. Mr. James Wilson, Hatlex Cottage.

The Cottage was let as a residence suitable for the professional person of the times. Again we see from the 1871 census that the people renting it are quite well off. Robert Blades and his family are very interesting for they have no children of their own but have taken into their home two nephews and a niece, one nephew was only three years of age:

Hatlex Cottage, Robert Blades, head, aged 48, builder, born in Lancaster.

Isabella Blades, wife, aged 49.

Isabella Taylor, niece to wife, aged 21, no occupation, born in Ulverston.

Ernest Baynes, nephew to wife, aged 9, scholar, born in Blackburn.

Charles B. Corrdale, nephew to head, aged 3, born in Lancaster.

Ellen Brown, servant, aged 35, born in Heysham.

Jane Pickerdown, servant aged 16. [Census return 1871]

Mr. Robert Blades still continued at the cottage until at least 1879:

1879. Mr. Robert Blades, Hatlex Cottage, Hest. [Local directory]

In 1881 Mr. Thomas Atkinson, a Tea Dealer, was living at Hatlex Cottage with his wife Margaret and their first child had just been born:

Thomas Atkinson, aged 36, Tea Dealer, employs three men.

Margaret, wife, aged 27.

Constance, daughter, aged 1 month.

Mary Brecoes? aged 44, monthly nurse.

Dorothy Atkinson, general domestic servant. [Census return 1881]

J Atkinson and Co. home Hatlex Cottage, Hest Bank. [Trade index]]

In 1891, and perhaps for some time before, Mr. J. Scambler lived at Hatlex Cottage. He moved to Slyne Grange in 1891, his family stayed in the village for some years and his daughters, the Misses Scambler, set up a school at Slyne Grange for the children of the village.

A Mr. De Pont was living at the Cottage according to the Census of 1891. His tenancy expired on the 11th. November 1894.

Hatlex Cottage, A De Pont, living with wife and three children, manufacturer and merchant, born in Lausanne, wife born in London SW. [Census return 1891]

The Hest Bank Golf Club

After 1894 Thomas Birch acquired the Cottage and he was still living there in 1898. A Joseph Birch was living there in 1901 and it was at that time that its use changed and the Hest Bank Golf Club was established. The Cottage we see today became the Clubhouse. The Golf Club was very successful until the beginning of the first World War and then with so many young men in the armed services it ceased to exist and again became a house. A local newspaper article gave an attractive description of the course:

Hest Bank Golf Club

The formation of this new club is now ensured, and the first general meeting is to be held in the Mission Church, Hest Bank, on Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock as advertised in our columns.

Though unexpected difficulties arose, the formation committee were not at all discouraged. They felt thoroughly confident from the generous support tendered from all sides, that their exertions must be crowned with success, and the sequel has proved the correctness of their opinion. Guarantors have come handsomely forward, the land owners and the tenants have met them with every kindness and assistance

and it now only remains for the formal enrolment of members at the general meeting to set the ball rolling.

The club house, "Hatlex Cottage," is an ideal place for the purpose, beautifully situated in private grounds. That alone must appeal to many. The links adjoin, being over the Slyne Manor House and the Slyne Hall estates, and lend themselves to attaining a reputation as one of the prettiest and most sporting inland links in the country. Though inland most extensive views of Morecambe Bay and Lakeland mountains are obtained that on favourable days, apart from the fascination of golf, enchant the visitors, and open out a panorama almost unequalled in the kingdom. The course has been inspected by Mr. George Low, of St. Annes, a professional and authority of great repute, and very favourably reported upon, the whole being good, sound, old grassland, with a dry and suitable subsoil. The links can be soon ready for play.

It is confidently anticipated that the accessibility of the links- the club house being only six minutes from the railway station, or fifteen minutes from Lancaster Town Hall-- will in itself entice many to become members, not only for the charms of golf, but for the pleasures of spending a pleasant afternoon or summer's evening in so lovely a little place as the Hest Bank golf club house, which it is hoped will develop into the "correct thing" for all who care for the beauties of the country.

It is hoped that all interested in the formation of the club that will provide fresh fields and fresh pleasures, and still be so accessible, will attend the general meeting to add their names to the already long list of both ladies and gentleman. Should anyone desirous of being nominated be unable to attend a notification of their wishes to the hon. secretary will be appreciated.[Newspaper Article].

There are records of some of the officials and helpers at the Golf Club in 1913:

J.K.McConnell, Kilncroft, Hest Bank, Secretary. T.R. Roberts, Junior Secretary.

Geo. Cook, Hatlex Cottage.

1913.W. M. Gardner, caretaker.

Nisbets Golf Year Book had the details of the club, its officers and of the course. It sounds most attractive especially the fees!

Hest Bank, Near Lancaster.

Hest Bank Golf Club.

Inst 1905. Number of Members--150.

Station (L& N.W.R.), 8 minutes.

Hon. Sec.: J McConnell. Entrance Fee-Nil. Subs.-£1.10s.; Ladies- £1.1s.

Number of Holes--9. Pro.--W. Buckle. Terms for Visitors. 1s.6d. per day, 5s. per week.

Country members pay 15s. subs. Sunday play after 1p.m., but no caddies.

The course is 9 holes, with natural hazards, total length 2,694 yards, and though inland is practically on Morecambe Bay and commands most lovely and extensive views of the bay and the surrounding mountain scenery. Hest Bank is a charming little seaside resort, and the course affords great pleasure to the many golfing summer visitors. The Club House stands in its own pretty grounds, and everything is done to give visitors a comfortable and happy time.

J. McConnell, Hon. Sec.