

# Blackpool Bridge and the Isle of Skye

This article came about as a result of a query to the Holmfirth History group's web-site asking about the history of Blackpool Bridge. Blackpool Bridge is said locally to have been built by Seth Senior to facilitate access to shooting grounds and/or shooting lodges at Goodbent. The shooting lodge of Odessa is also said to have been built by him.

Although the bridge might have been rebuilt by them it existed before the Senior brewery's involvement and its origins are tied to those of the building that became the brewery's Isle of Skye Hotel. They were probably built for a William Leigh Brook. This estate and another, on the other side of Greenfield Road, occupy the greater part of this history. An earlier establishment, the Wessenden Head Hotel was situated on that opposite side.

The top of the valley above Digley where the Isle of Skye Hotel was situated was in Upperthong township but the other side of Greenfield Rd, like the lower part of the valley, was in Austonley<sup>1</sup>. The township maps show that the northern end of Blackpool Bridge was just inside Austonley. The moorland of Goodbent to which it gave access was, like the Isle of Skye Hotel building, in Upperthong.

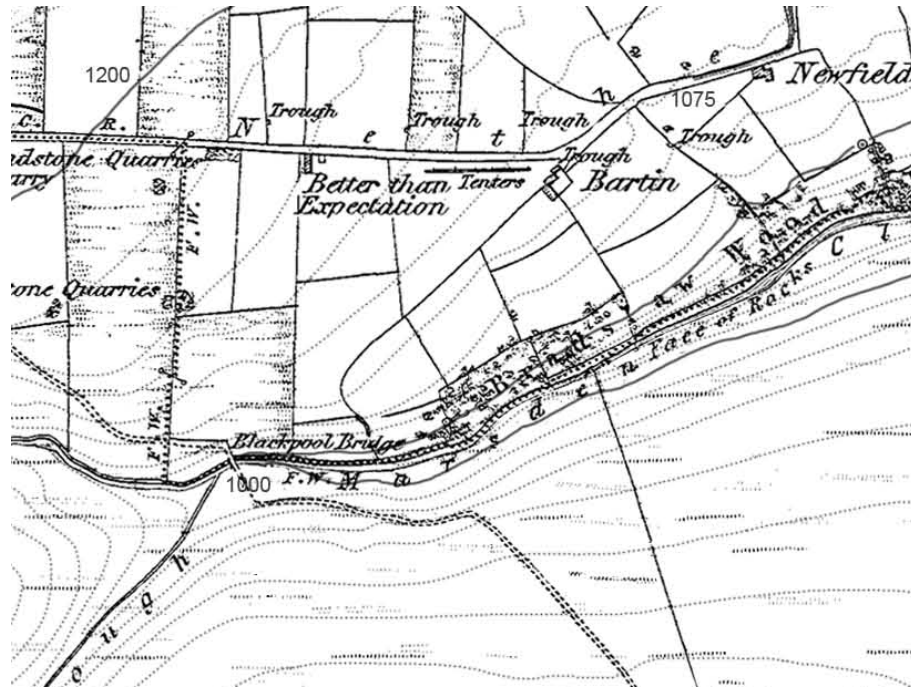


*Photograph 1: Goodbent, looking west from Upper Town End, Austonley*

In Photograph 1 Goodbent is the stretch of moorland on the left hand side. The group of buildings at right angles to the road are Better Than Expectation, now Goodbent Lodge. Closer to the viewpoint and somewhat in shadow, the two buildings at right angles to each other are Bartin. Blackpool Bridge is in the valley to the left of Better Than Expectation (see Map 1). Wessenden Head is on the horizon behind the buildings.

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<sup>1</sup> The administrators of the census do not appear to have made this distinction before 1881 and this has to be allowed for in interpreting census results.



Map 1: Blackpool Bridge on the 1st Ed 6" OS Map. cf Photograph 1.

## Historical background

A network of lanes existed in Austonley and this part of Upperthong for a long time and there would have been connections from the Holme Valley into the Meltham Valley but these were for local use. A turnpike road was planned in 1819 to run from Saddleworth or Greenfield to Shepley Lane Head. An Act of 1822/3 authorised the construction of this. The road was built in stages, Greenfield to the Ford Inn being almost completed by 1828 when the final section from Holmfirth to the Ford was started. An Act of 1825/6 enabled the extension of the Lockwood to Meltham Turnpike to meet the Greenfield to Shepley Turnpike at Wessenden Head. This made the Wessenden Head area much more accessible from Lancashire *via* Greenfield, the east *via* Holmfirth, and to Huddersfield and Leeds *via* Meltham.

A second part of the background was the development of grouse shooting on the moors. Grouse shooting was already well established according to David Hey, 2014<sup>2</sup>. The local parish registers confirm this with isolated examples of people giving their occupations as “gamekeeper” in the early 1740s. Thomas Woodhead of Upperthong did so at the baptism of his daughter Betty in 1847 as did William Shaw when he married Anne Kay in Almondbury the following year. Further examples, however, are only found in the 1820s.

Hey makes two points in regard to new legislation introduced in this period. One was that the Game Act of 1831 had taken “control over game away from the lords of the manor [in this case the manor of Wakefield] and conferred it upon the owners of land”. The other was that Enclosure Acts “enabled great landowners to form compact moorland estates that were devoted to the shooting of Grouse”. An Act of 1828 authorised the enclosure of the Graveship of Holme.

Another piece of legislation, the Beerhouse Act of 1830, took the licencing of beerhouses away from the magistrates and anyone willing to pay for a government licence could open such premises.

<sup>2</sup> A history of the Peak District Moors, Pen and Sword Books, Barnsley.

Finally, whilst previous generations would have been shunned areas such as this the Romantic movement, with authors such as Sir Walter Scott, had made them more attractive and, with the taste for the picturesque, led to the start of tourism. The effects of this can be seen influencing fashions in new place names which started appearing in the area by the mid-century.

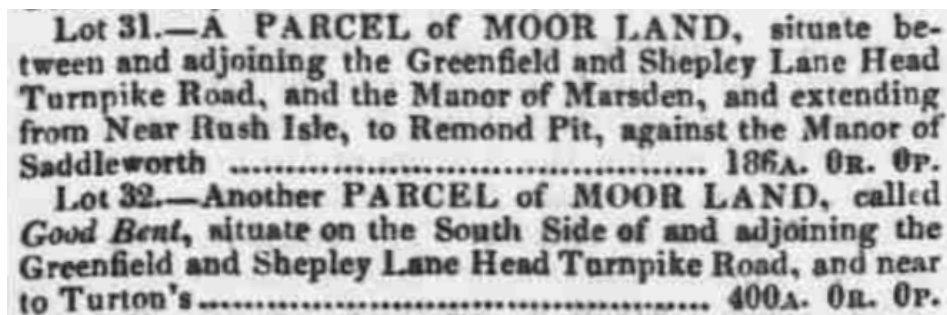
These factors combined in what can be seen as attempts to develop what today would be called the leisure industry in this area. Shooting was a significant part of this but hill-walking also became popular and remains so to the present day.

## Origins: 1829 - 1847

### Goodbent, Wessenden Head and Blackpool Bridge

#### The 1829 sale

The Commissioners appointed under the 1828 Enclosure Act held auctions of land at “the house of Mr John Boothroyd, the White Hart in Holmfirth”. An advertisement in the Leeds Intelligencer of Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> for the sale to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> mentioned 28 lots from the commons and waste, mostly, it seemed quarries and “building situations” but including three lots which were “excellent shooting and planting grounds” including these:



*Newspaper 1: Part on the auction announcement of September 1829*

They were said to be well stocked with grouse and their accessibility from Manchester and Leeds as well as Huddersfield and Holmfirth was emphasised. There was a gamekeeper, Joseph Jubb, of Wildboar Clough who would show prospective purchasers the lots. Unfortunately we do not have a record of the purchasers but there are indications that Lot 31 may have been bought by Robert Coldwell or Couldwell Clark of Noblethorpe, Silkstone and Lot 32 by William Leigh Brook, one of the Brook family of Meltham Mills.

Lot 31 is recognisably the detached strip of Austonley township lying between Greenfield Road and the boundary with Marsden township. Remond Pit is marked on a copy of a medieval map of Holmfirth and Rimmon Pit Clough is marked on the OS map. It runs from springs just west of the modern car park at the boundary between West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester. This boundary follows the older one between the Graveship of Holme and Saddleworth which also marked the end of this strip of Austonley. No variation of Rush Isle is marked on any map but “Great Rush Bed” is marked somewhat east of the car park site, possibly the implied Far Rush Isle. By implication Near Rush Isle must be in the vicinity of Wessenden Head and there is a Rushy Sike Clough marked near there. In 1847 the estate was owned by the executors of the late Robert Clarke. A later advertisement (*infra*) mentions an R.C. Clarke. These fit very well with Robert Coldwell or

Couldwell Clark of Noblethorpe, Silkstone who died in 1843 and his son, also Robert Couldwell Clark or Clarke.

## Post-sale development

No buildings are shown on the 1834 map but an inn was built at Wessenden Head shortly after the enclosure. There was a newspaper report of an inquest held there in 1835 and in 1837 a report named the landlord as David Clough. By the time of the 1841 census David Clough had already moved on; the inn was occupied by John Lodge, age 35<sup>3</sup>, innkeeper, with his wife, Sarah, age 30, 5 children and a servant, Sarah Wilson. There was also a Joseph Parker, aged 30, with a child; he who may have been a relative as one of the Lodge children was named Parker.

Lot 32 explicitly refers to the Goodbent moor but, adjoining the turnpike, also includes land at Wessenden Head. Blackpool Bridge formed part of the connection between the moor and this roadside site. The Austonley enclosure map of 1834 names not only the holders of Austonley land but also those of the adjacent parts of Upperthong. The name William Leigh Brook is written several times along the boundary at Goodbent.

More buildings must have been erected at Wessenden Head between the enclosure and 1841 as the census shows two households at Wessenden Head. One was the family of John Lodge already mentioned. The other was that of Webster Haigh, aged 45, gamekeeper as head of the household with Joseph Haigh, aged 55, labourer, and Margaret Haigh, aged 85, widow. They were the sons and widow of James Haigh of Dunsley, Cartworth.

The buildings are shown for the first time on the maps prepared in 1847 under the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. These show buildings on both sides of the Greenfield road. The buildings on the south side of the road were those known in the C20<sup>th</sup> as the Isle of Skye Hotel. They are not labelled on the 1847 maps but those on the north side of the road<sup>4</sup> were labelled “Wessenden Head Inn” so the southern site must have been that occupied by Webster Haigh.



Map 2: Wessenden Head, 1847 Upperthong township map

By 1847 the southern buildings are shown as belonging to a William Haigh<sup>5</sup>. Nevertheless, William Leigh Brook was still in possession of Goodbent in 1841 when shares were advertised to let for shooting over 1,800 acres at Wessenden Head and Holme Clough<sup>6</sup> Moors. They were described as

<sup>3</sup> Adult ages were rounded down to the nearest 5 years in the 1841 Census.

<sup>4</sup> For convenience these will be referred to as the south and north buildings respectively although the alignment of the road and their relative positions along it result in the buildings on the south side lying slightly to the north of the inn. See Map 2.

<sup>5</sup> His relationship, if any, of William to Webster is unknown.

<sup>6</sup> Holme Clough runs down towards Greenfield but the head is in Upperthong.

lying between the road and Black Hill and to be next to his allotment. In 1846 and 1848 similar advertisements included Goodbent with the other two moors but without any mention of Brook. The 400 acres of Lot 32 had been combined with the 1,800 of the first advertisement to form an estate of over 2,200 acres. The advertisements show seven or eight out of twelve shares being let. It may well be that William Haigh was not the sole owner but the representative of a consortium. Brook certainly seems to have no longer been an individual owner although, unlike Clark, he was still alive; he died, two days after his second wife, on holiday in Germany in 1855.

Map 2 shows a road or track of sorts leading from the southern buildings to Blackpool Bridge and crossing it. The later OS map shows the track stopping abruptly on the moor at Goodbent. Neither buildings, track nor bridge are shown on the Austonley Enclosure map of 1834. Southern buildings, track and Blackpool Bridge were all constructed within the few years between the enclosure and tithe surveys. It is very likely that they were all part of the same scheme to develop the shooting rights of Goodbent to which Blackpool Bridge gives access. This is likely to have been William Leigh Brook's development of his new shooting estate as by 1847 the advertisements suggest that Goodbent was a minor part of the larger estate.

## Naming

Wessenden Head is a typical local name for this sort of location. "Head" is a frequent place name element and in this instance it is at the head of the Wessenden valley. Although the inn was named in this traditional manner the alternative Isle of Skye was already in existence by 1847. One G.S. Phillips mentioned it in "Walks Round Huddersfield", published in December:

*When you once reach the "Isle," as it is called, you will be awed as well as delighted with its aspect ; and if you are tired after your long wandering, you can climb the hills and gain the inn by the road side, and refresh yourself with ham, eggs, and a flaggon of "brewis," which will have quite a "Skyie influence" over you. You can then walk home by Meltham Moor, and as you sit over your comfortable blazing hearth in the evening, you can reflect with no small satisfaction upon the adventures which have occurred to you during your twenty-five miles walk.*

The growing enthusiasm for all things Scottish seems likely to be the basis for this but whether it was specifically to promote the inn remains unknown.

## Other premises

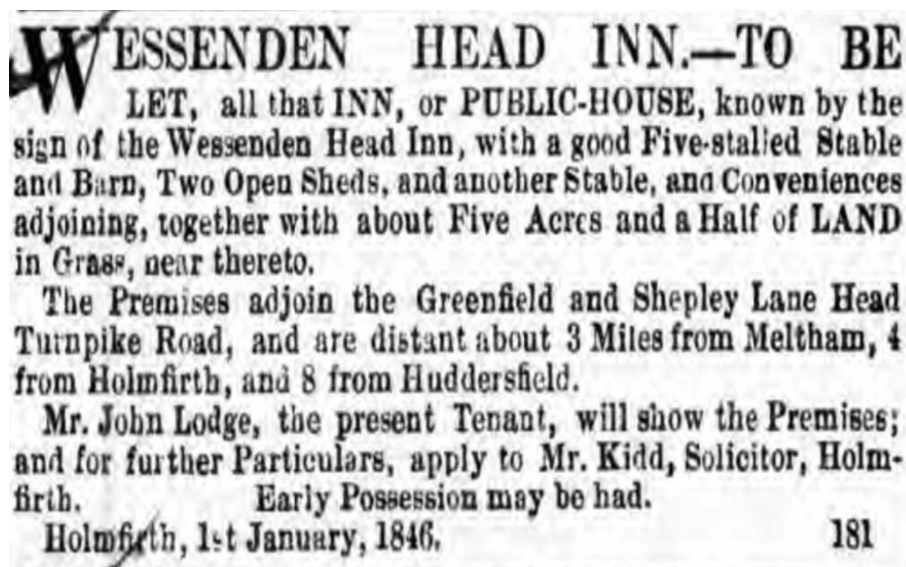
A little way down the road towards Holmfirth was the property called Turtons in the description of Lot 32. It is so named on the 1834 enclosure map and in subsequent sources including the OS maps. On the 1847 map it is named as the Highland Laddie Inn and, according to the tithe awards owned by a Francis Dickinson and occupied by him and Sarah Hall. Turtons does not appear in its own right in the 1841 census but in 1851 it is listed as Turtons with Sarah Hall, widow, as the head of household and described as a beershop keeper although another resident, Harriet Haigh, is described as an innkeeper's servant. In 1841 Sarah Hall had been living with a Joseph Haigh; Harriet was his daughter. Despite the fanciful name and Harriet's occupation it seems likely that Turtons was just another beerhouse in the mid-1840s, a point to which we will return later.

Dickinson does not appear there on either census but in 1841 as a commission agent in Newtown, Upperthong (i.e. that part of Holmfirth between the top of Victoria Street and the Fire Station in modern terms) and as a proprietor of houses, land and mill living at Out Lane, Netherthong in 1851. It seems likely that turning Turtons into a beerhouse was one of his ventures and that Sarah Hall was given the job of running it. We no doubt have Dickinson to thank, again with the growing enthusiasm for all things Scottish, for naming it the Highland Laddie. Such a name would have been unthinkable a century earlier in the wake of the 1745 rebellion. Turtons would have been the traditional name for it. Similarly fashion would have been responsible for the names of two Heath Cottages which appeared in the area. The Holme Valley had "Cote" as a traditional name element but not "Cottage".

## Later developments 1847 - 1861

### Wessenden Head

John Lodge did not stay long at Wessenden Head Inn although he was still the tenant in 1846 when the property was advertised to let.



*Newspaper 2: Letting notice of 1846*

In the tithe awards in 1847 the occupier was Joseph Waterhouse. Joseph had been a beerhouse keeper at Bradshaw in the 1841 census and by the time of the 1851 census he was an innkeeper at "Batten", i.e. Bartin, in Austonley.

The tithe award also mentions a house and garden to the east of the inn occupied by Joseph Roberts although he was not there in 1841. Joseph Roberts, born 1815, was the son of William of Upper Cumberworth. At Joseph's baptism and subsequently at Joseph's marriage William was described as a miller<sup>7</sup> although he had been a labourer a few months earlier when he himself married in 1814. At his marriage at Wath-upon-Dearne in 1844 to Mary Ann Kingston, the daughter of a seedsman of Wentworth, Joseph, then of Kirkburton, described himself as a gentleman but a few years later he was a gamekeeper living in a small house high on a bleak moorland. There is so far no evidence to explain the change of status from miller's son to gentleman to gamekeeper. However, coming from a milling background he may have set up as a corn merchant - the two businesses blend into each

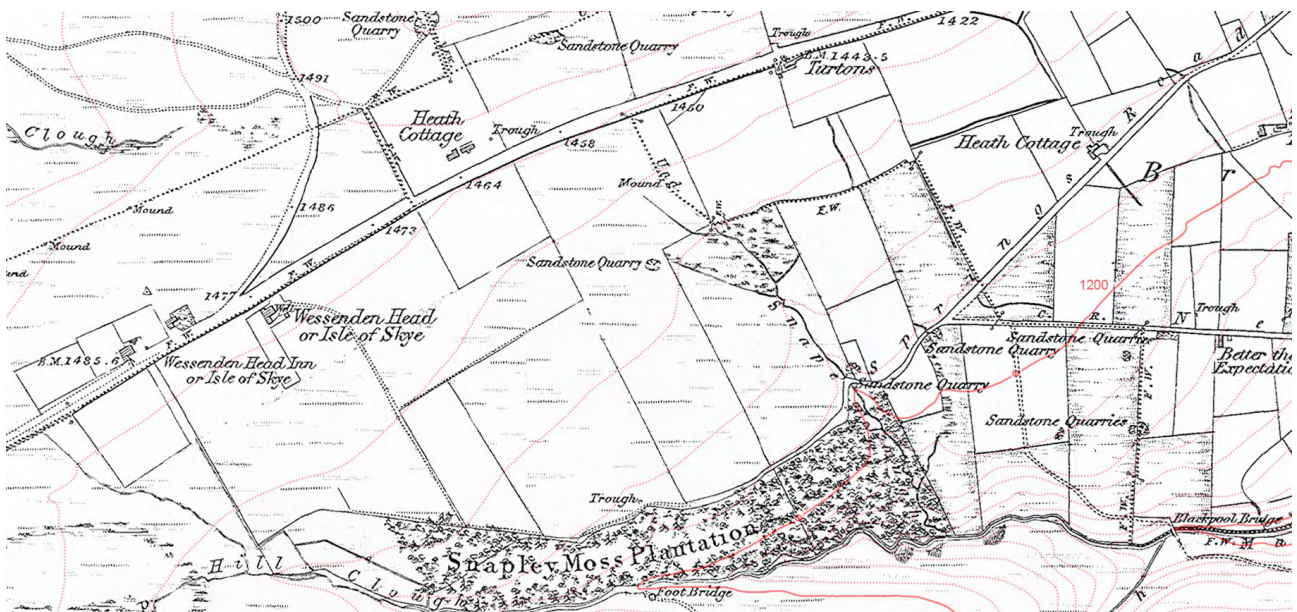
<sup>7</sup> Neither father nor son are listed in any contemporary trade directory covering the area.



other. One such, John Newton of Thongsbridge Mill was also described as a gentleman at his marriage. Newton went bankrupt, although the debts of his father and brother appear to have played a part in that, and ended as an innkeeper in Honley. Perhaps there is a parallel here.

The evidence that Roberts was a gamekeeper in 1847 and that his beat extended well beyond the Clark estate where he was living comes from a report in the Leeds Times of February 20<sup>th</sup>. He prosecuted Joseph Hollingworth at Holmfirth Town Hall for poaching on Holme Moss and Webster Haigh as an accomplice. Not surprisingly by the time of the 1851 census Webster Haigh was no longer at Wessenden Head as gamekeeper although he was still a gamekeeper but living in Holmfirth. Roberts was still at Wessenden Head and, as only two properties including the inn were listed there, and as Roberts and his wife, who now had two children, it is likely that he had moved into the property on the south side of the road.

In 1850 Joseph Waterhouse, still the landlord at Wessenden Head Inn, charged Roberts with assault. According to the report Roberts was known as Joe o' Captain's. This form of by-name often indicates the father's name but Joseph was the son of William Roberts, corn miller of Upper Cumberworth, baptised at Silkstone – Cumberworth was a mosaic of several detached manorial and parish portions of which Silkstone was one. Possibly Captain was a family name. Another Joseph, son of Captain Roberts<sup>8</sup> was baptised in Beverley in 1753. No others are recorded until one of Joseph's sons was baptised as Captain in 1858<sup>9</sup> but either we may be missing one or more later C18<sup>th</sup> Captains or possibly the name passed down as a by-name.



Map 3: 1st Ed 6" OS map

In the first edition of the 6" to the mile OS map surveyed in 1849-51, published in 1854, the inn is marked as the Wessenden Head Inn and the southern building is also marked Wessenden Head but both are given the alternative name of Isle of Skye. Note Blackpool Bridge in the south east corner.

<sup>8</sup> Assuming this wasn't simply a military or naval rank being recorded.

<sup>9</sup> This Captain Roberts enlisted with the House-Guards in 1877. What his officers made of Trooper Captain Roberts – shades of Major Major from Catch 22 – is left to our imagination. In 1881, however, he was recorded with the rest of the family in the census. Later census records show that he made a career as a sporting dog trainer in Suffolk, where he married, and in Kent. He died at Folkestone in 1927.

As noted above Joseph Waterhouse had left the Wessenden Head Inn by the time of the 1851 census. He was replaced by a Thomas Batho and his family. Thomas was a native of Shropshire and described himself as a Greenwich pensioner in the census. He made a bid for the tourist trade with this advertisement in July of that year:

**HEALTH, PLEASURE, COMFORT, AND  
REASONABLE CHARGES.**  
*AT WESSENDEN HEAD INN, ISLE OF SKYE,  
NEAR HOLMFIRTH.*

**T**HOMAS BATHO, having recently returned home from the ever memorable campaign of the Sutlej, respectfully announces to his friends and the public in general, that he has lately entered to the above Inn, and hopes by the best attention, good Viands, and Reasonable Charges to merit a liberal share of their patronage and support.

The house has been newly painted, papered, and decorated, and is now fit for the reception of the most respectable Pleasure Parties.

**EXCELLENT STABLING.**

**CHAMPAGNES, WINES, SPIRITS, ALES, AND PORTER,  
OF FIRST RATE QUALITY.**

N.B.—Isle of Skye is a pleasant distance from Holmfirth, which parties may reach by railroad, whence they may easily walk or hire a Cab.

*Newspaper 3: Advertisement by Thomas Batho*

Batho's promotion extended to an article in the Huddersfield Chronicle describing the battles of Sutlej in the Punjab. Although well-travelled with children born in the East Indies and Australia the Isle of Skye was a step too far for him and in 1854 the tenancy was advertised again:

**T**O be LET, and may be entered to on the 25th of June instant, that well-accustomed INN, known by the name of the "WESSENDEN HEAD INN," situated at the Isle of Skye, at present in the occupation of Mr. THOMAS BATHO, who will show the Premises.

A few Acres of LAND are LET with the above Inn.

For Rent and all further particulars, apply to Mr. F. LITTLEWOOD, New Mill Brewery, near Huddersfield.

*Newspaper 4: To Let notice of 1854*

A second advertisement of this time emphasises that this is "a fine opening as the shooting season is at hand". A newspaper report of the same year indicated that Elizabeth Ainley from Castle Hill Hotel had moved to the "New Inn" at Wessenden Head, Austonley. A further report mentioned the licence transferred to Joseph Roberts in March 1855 and there was a further report of Joseph Roberts as the landlord of Wessenden Head Inn but still a gamekeeper. In about 20 years the inn had had at least six tenants.

From 1861 onwards the census has a column for indicating unoccupied premises. In 1861 the area is listed as simply Isle of Skye with only one household, that of Joseph Roberts, still with the profession of gamekeeper and one unoccupied site. As both are still listed as Austonley it is not clear from this whether he was still in the southern building or in the inn.



## Other premises

As mentioned above, in 1851 Turtons was occupied by Sarah Hall, beerhouse keeper, her children and Harriet Haigh as a servant. Beerhouses were on the increase: Joseph Waterhouse had followed his brief occupancy of the Wessenden Head Inn by running another beerhouse at Bartin and Charles Broadbent, who had been a clothier at Upper Knowle in 1841, was also a beerhouse keeper at Knowle Head in 1851.

By 1861 Turtons was still a beerhouse, now occupied by Samuel Blackshaw. Knowle Height was also a beerhouse occupied by Joseph Ellis but there was no longer a beerhouse at Bartin.

## Final developments 1860s - 1880s

In 1871 there was again one occupied and one unoccupied site. Both were in Austonley but the name had reverted to Wessenden Head. The occupier was Joseph Roberts with his second wife, Ann Flint from Marsden. He was now described as farmer and gamekeeper; there had been no reference to an inn for more than a decade. Turtons was still a beerhouse, now run by a Wilford Tinker and his aunt, Mary Bradbury but Knowle Height and Bartin were not.

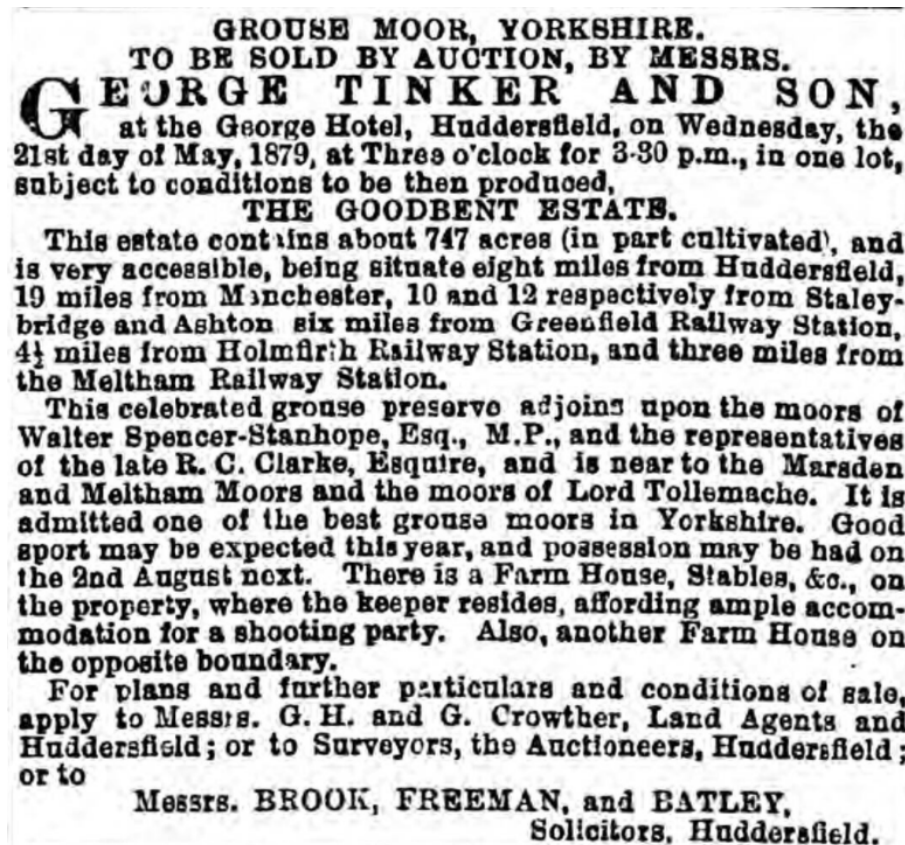


Figure 1: 1879 Auction notice

In 1879 a Goodbent shooting estate was put up for auction. This was much more than the original Lot 32, in fact over a third of the 2,200 acre estate that had been put together in the mid-1840s. The keeper's accommodation was presumably the Wessenden Head property and "another Farm House" would have been Odessa. Reuben Senior was the purchaser for £10,000. Shortly after this the Brewster Session was asked to transfer a licence from premises called the Shepherd's Boy to Goodbent followed by a full licence application a few years later.

Mr. Armitage applied for WILFRID TINKER, of Good Bent, in the township of Uppertong, first for the removal of the licence of the Shepherd's Boy from Austonley to Good Bent, and then for a spirit licence. The house was on the road from Harden Moss to the Isle of Skye and Greenfield, and was largely used by sportsmen. An old licensed house had previously existed, but had been shut up for the convenience of the owners, who now used it as a shooting-box. A memorial was put in which was influentially signed, and which bore the signatures of the Mayor of Huddersfield and of several councillors who used the house when visiting the Corporation waterworks. There was no opposition. Mr. Armitage handed to the Bench a written undertaking by the owners that if the application were granted they would close the Rose and Crown Inn at Netherthong, a fully licensed house, of which they were also the owners. The spirit licence was refused, but the transfer was granted.

*Newspaper 5: Application to transfer licence*

#### ISLE OF SKYE HOTEL.

Mr. J. H. Sykes applied on behalf of ELI BROOKE, of the Isle of Skye Hotel, in the township of Uppertong, for a full licence. Some five years ago a beerhouse licence was transferred from a house called the Shepherd's Boy, which had been a licensed beerhouse for 30 years, to the Isle of Skye Hotel, and for five years the house had been a beerhouse simply. In this case a licence already existed, and by granting the application the magistrates would only be enlarging a licence. The house was a very commodious one, and had an assembly-room which would seat between 500 and 600 persons. There was accommodation for 18 horses, and in the event of the magistrates granting the application the proprietors would build accommodation for waggonettes, &c. There were 60 acres of land attached to the house, and in the summer a large number of excursionists visited the house. The place being well situated between Greenfield and Holmfirth there were a good many people on the road. The traffic between Lancashire and Yorkshire was very large, and many people who went by road called at the house. A number of people who went on the moors also availed themselves of the accommodation afforded by the house.

**There was no opposition to the application.**

*Newspaper 6: Application for full licence*

Seniors' brewery had converted the old keeper's lodge on the south side of the road to the Isle of Skye Hotel which survived into the C20<sup>th</sup>. The fact that it was not itself the "old licenced house" of

the transfer application was not mentioned. Roberts was keeping Wessenden Head in the family; Eli Brook who won the full licence married his daughter Sarah at Wilshaw in 1883.

In the 1881 census Wilford Tinker was at the Isle of Skye Hotel, now listed as being in Upperthong, and his former beerhouse, Turtons in Austonley, was unoccupied. He was a farmer of 100 acres and innkeeper with his aunt Mary Bradbury, housekeeper, a niece, Hannah Bradbury, domestic servant, and William Senior, farm servant. “Wilfrid” in the licence application would have been a misheard “Wilford”, and it will have been from Turtons that the licence was transferred. The exotic “Highland Laddie” had been replaced by “The Shepherd’s Boy”. The mention of 30 years confirms this, being more consistent with the setting up of the Highland Laddie Inn at Turtons than any of the other beerhouses. Reuben Senior’s name was crossed off the licence and replaced by Seth Senior.

Joseph Roberts was at Wessenden Head, Austonley, still a gamekeeper. At last the census was distinguishing between the ancient townships to which the two sets of buildings belonged but an annotation on the census indicates that Wessenden Head was to be transferred from Austonley to Upperthong by a Local Government Board order and both locations were transferred to the parish of St Mary, Wilshaw. Roberts was now clearly back on the land of the late Mr. Clarke<sup>10</sup>. Whether this had been the case in the past is less clear. His taking over of the inn in the 1850s may indicate that he had moved there but, given the proximity of the two he could have combined innkeeping with gamekeeping and remained in the keeper’s house. The auction details imply that the gamekeeper was resident but the conversion to an hotel with a new, resident innkeeper would have necessitated his move to what had become a shooting box across the road. In any event the licence for the original inn must have lapsed within a few years of his tenancy there. In photograph 2 we see both premises, the old Wessenden Head Inn (Wessenden Lodge according to later OS maps) on the right and the Isle of Skye Hotel on the left.



*Photograph 2: Both properties survived into the age of the motor car*

The Seniors evidently invested in further development of their new property. Hay mentions several ways in which shooting estates and the areas around them developed. One was the building of inns on the edges of the moors to provide refreshment after the day’s shoot<sup>11</sup>. The creation of the hotel was an example of this. It must have required substantial building work; the assembly room for five or six hundred people can scarcely have been part of a gamekeeper’s lodge.

<sup>10</sup> This late R.C. Clarke was the son of the purchaser of Lot 31 but he had then died in 1874.

<sup>11</sup> Perhaps the original Wessenden Head Inn was just too early to take advantage of this.





*Photograph 3: The Hotel Yard*

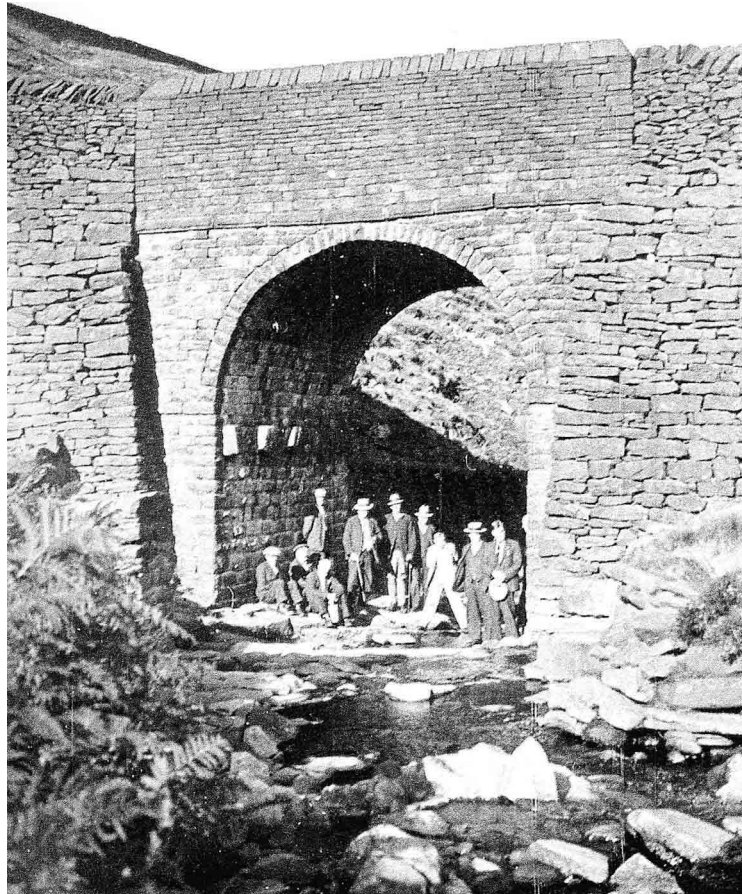
Another type of development mentioned by Hay was the building of “small cabins for keepers and shooting parties to shelter in at lunch times”. The Seniors exceeded this simple provision. The unnamed “farm house on the opposite border” of the auction notice, Odessa, first appears in the census of 1871 when it was occupied by a George Tinker, farmer, with a farm servant. In 1881 it was occupied by a Charles Brierley, also a farmer, and his extended family. By the time the next edition of the OS map was surveyed later in the 1880s it was no longer a farm house; it had become a shooting box.



*Photograph 4: Road on Goodbent Moor*

Hey also mentions that tracks for pony and trap were laid across the moors. The road shown climbing onto the moor in Photograph 4 might be part of this development but following an earlier road, as shown on the first edition of the OS map.

A rebuilding of Blackpool Bridge to improve access would also have been a likely part of the sort of access improvements that Hey mentions as typical of the time. The bridge that survived until the 1944 flood was an impressive structure as can be seen in photograph 5 and entirely consistent with the scale of the Seniors' improvements. A rebuilding by Seth Senior & Son, the company rather than the man, seems a likely basis for the local story that Seth Senior "built" the bridge



*Photograph 5: Blackpool Bridge pre-1944*

## Acknowledgement

Thanks to Dave Pattern of <https://huddersfield.exposed> for contributing much of the material.