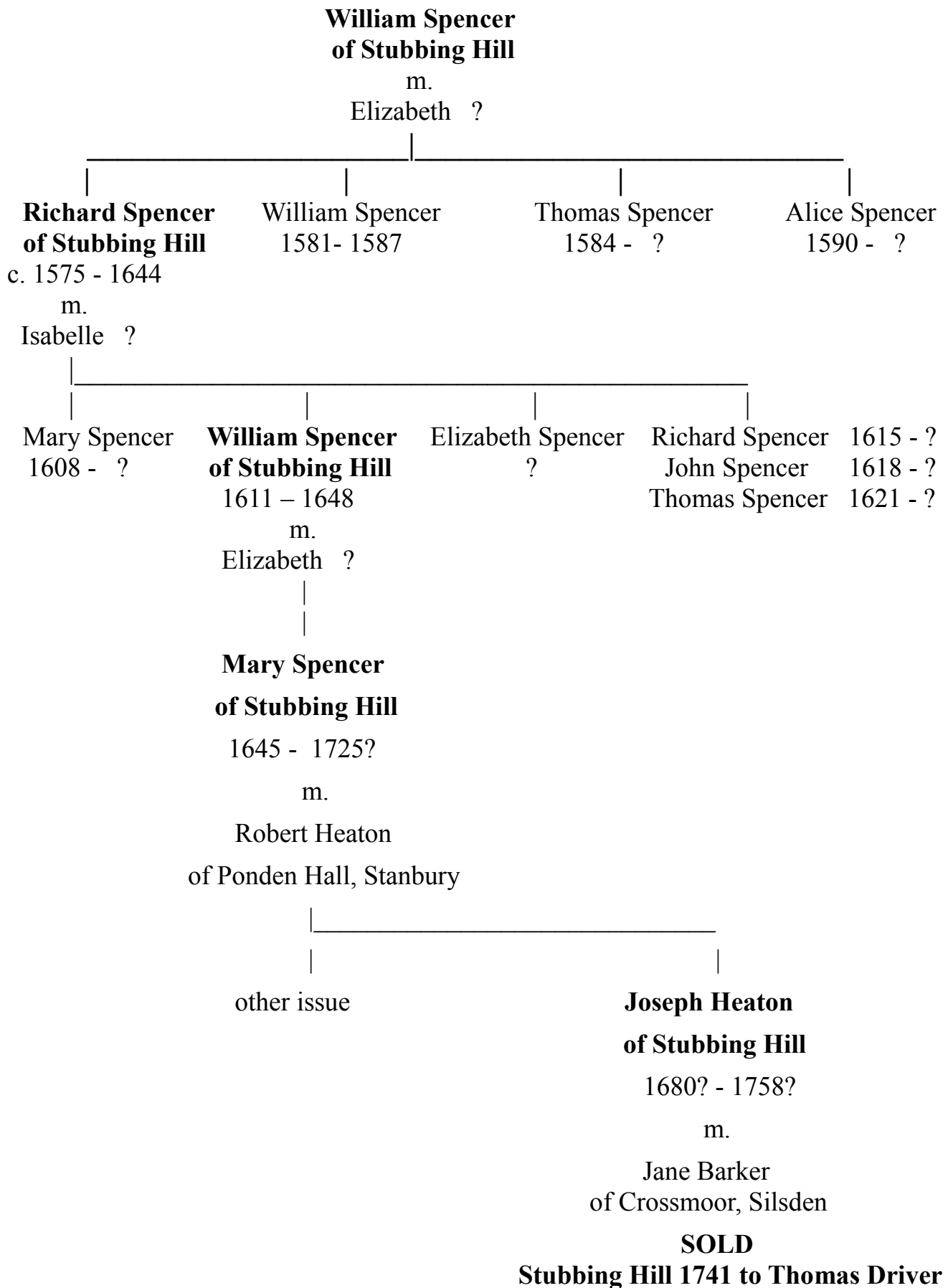


**THE  
LIFE AND TIMES  
OF  
STUBBING HILL  
SUTTON IN CRAVEN**

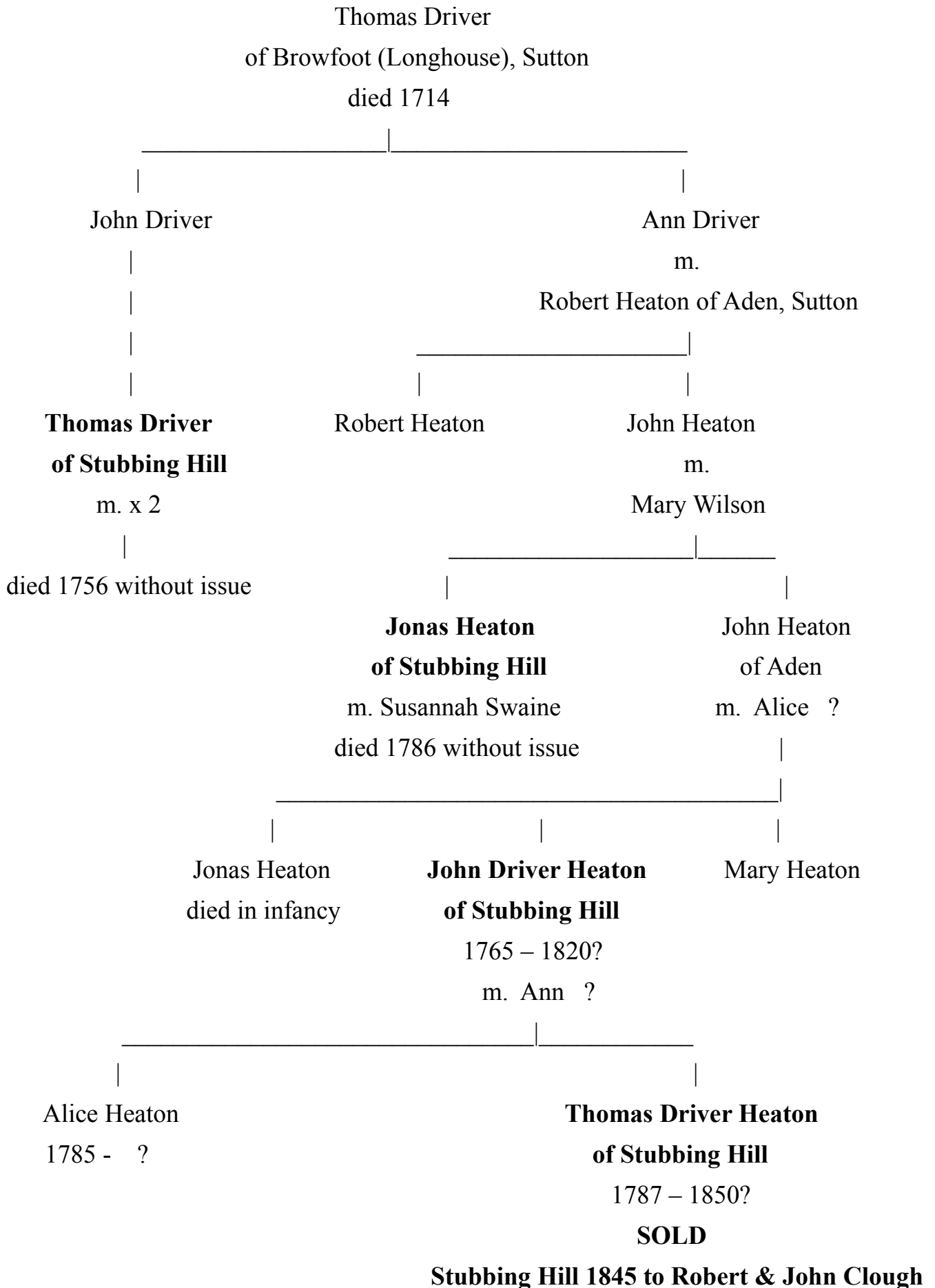
Researched and compiled by

Robin Longbottom

## THE SPENCERS OF STUBBING HILL



# THE DRIVER – HEATONS OF STUBBING HILL



## **LIFE AND TIMES OF STUBBING HILL, SUTTON**

Stubbing Hill lies to the south of Sutton, a short distance from West Lane as it leads out of the village. The origin of the place name *stubbing* is one of the few that is extremely well recorded. It makes its appearance in medieval times through to the end of the Tudor period. The monks of Fountains Abbey for example granted a lease in 1520 to '*Ralph and Robeert Scayfee*' with the '*liberty to stube up and clense certyn grounds*'. Later in the century in 1587 John Kaye of Woodsome wrote '*I dyd stubb a pece of the Carr beyond the Brodyng, calling it the Great Stubbing*'. In this one sentence is documented the origins of a place name that is to be found throughout the West Riding of Yorkshire. The name Stubbing can be found in towns and villages such as Cowling, Keighley, Hebden Bridge, Halifax and Sutton-in-Craven.

Evidence of a house at Stubbing Hill is first recorded in the Kildwick Parish Records when a child was baptised in 1581. At this period the Copley family were Lords of the Manor of Sutton and would have given permission for the land to be '*stubbed*' or cleared and cultivated. That it is mentioned specifically in the parish records suggests that it was already a substantial house by that date.

### **THE YEOMEN FARMERS**

#### **William Spencer c.1545- c.1610**

During the late Tudor period, Stubbing Hill was occupied and farmed by a yeoman called William Spencer. The layout of Spencer's dwelling and farm buildings is uncertain, but evidence of the later structure suggests that it followed the traditional design for this part of the North of England: that of the longhouse. The longhouse had become established with the arrival of Norse settlers in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Centuries and was to be found from Yorkshire to Scotland, in Iceland and as far as Greenland. As the name suggests, it was one long building and included the house, mistal and laithe all under one roof.



**The location of 'Stubin Hill' from a map commissioned in 1775.**

At this period Sutton was undergoing considerable change. The old medieval world, with its serfs and villeins and communal open field system, was drawing to an end. Land within the township was being enclosed, and leased or sold, by the Lord of the Manor to a new rising class of yeoman farmers.

Although there is no record of William Spencer's birth, he was probably born between 1545 and 1555. He married and had at least four children. There is no record of the baptism of Richard the eldest, but a second son, William, was baptised in 1581, another, Thomas, in 1584 and a daughter, Alice, in 1590. Life at this period was not without its troubles and in 1587 a devastating plague spread throughout the village. For example, eight members of the Harper family died including the father, mother and six children. Many others were affected and the Spencers were not spared either. Their son William died, but the remaining members appear to have

escaped unscathed. Such was the impact of this catastrophe that it is still recalled in folk memory. Until recently old villagers talked of the plague victims who had been buried in a field at the back of Croft Weaving Shed in the High Street, and in Jenkins Hole, now known as Thompson's Field.

The Spencer family recovered from the effects of the plague and, in due course, their eldest son Richard reached adulthood and married. Richard's wife was called Isabella and they too settled at Stubbing Hill. Richard and his wife had at least three children who survived into adulthood: Mary born in 1608, William born in 1611 and a younger daughter called Elizabeth.

### **Richard Spencer c.1575 – 1644**

Richard Spencer succeeded his father William at Stubbing Hill. At this time, much of the village was still owned by Alvery Copley, Lord of the Manor of Sutton and Malsis, and also of nearby Cowling and Oakworth. During the 1620's, Copley began selling off his lands in Airedale and consolidating his interests in Batley, near Dewsbury. He had sold Oakworth Manor by 1626 and land in Cowling and Sutton was also disposed of at this time. Surviving deeds show Richard Brigg purchased a farm in Sutton in 1627, as did the Heatons of Ponden, near Stanbury, and it is likely that Richard Spencer acquired the freehold of Stubbing Hill at about the same time. He also purchased a farm then known as Parkinson's Tenement which was in the occupation of one John Brigg. This farm was probably at Ellers and may well have been on the site of present day Brigg Gate. He also purchased a farm at Slippery Ford in Oakworth.

Although documents describe Richard as a yeoman farmer, it is likely that he was engaged in the local woollen trade as a clothier, dealing and trading in the heavy woollen cloth that was manufactured in the locality. The income from this lucrative trade also enabled him to rebuild Stubbing Hill. During this period, many of the old traditional timber-framed, thatched farms and longhouses were replaced. There still

remain a few examples of these new houses in Sutton, such as Cragg Farm (which has a date stone for 1622), Gill Top already built by 1652, Cranberry Farm, Craven House and parts of Sutton House. The new dwelling would have been a more substantial house and evidence from later documents suggests that it was a three cell dwelling, with a housebody (principal living room), a parlour and a kitchen/buttery all along a single frontage, with the laithe attached at the western end.

Before Richard Spencer died in 1644, he disposed of all his properties and wealth to his children. Stubbing Hill and the farm at Slippery Ford passed to his surviving son, William. His unmarried younger daughter, Elizabeth, was provided for by the sale of Parkinson's Tenement in 1644 and under the terms of the deed she was to receive *'three score and ten pounds'*. The four children of his eldest daughter, Mary (who appears to have pre-deceased him) the wife of *'Stephen Wright of Intake Tenement in the Parish of Keighley'* were to receive *'Eight pounds beinge forty shillings for every child.....as they shall Accomplish the age of twenty and one years'*.

### **William Spencer 1611 – 1648**

William Spencer was almost certainly brought up in the trade of woollen clothier, but his life may well have been interrupted by the English Civil War. The fact that he does not appear to have married until the end of hostilities in 1646, when he was thirty five years old, suggests that he may have taken an active part in the war. The area, like much of the country, was in turmoil between the years 1642 and 1646. A Parliamentary garrison was stationed in Keighley and the Royalists held Skipton Castle, which was under siege for a period of three years until it capitulated in 1645.

Unfortunately, following the end of hostilities, he did not enjoy a long and settled life at Stubbing Hill. He and his wife, Elizabeth, had only one child, Mary, who was baptised at Kildwick Church on 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1647. In November the same year he fell ill and made his last will and testament. The document was signed by William - an indication that he had received a formal education and a degree of literacy at a

time when such things were normally unavailable to the great majority of the population. The will was witnessed by the signature of Richard Dixon, also of Sutton (the Dixons resided at Sutton House), and the marks of Richard Shackleton and of Stephen Wright, his brother-in-law (his sister Mary's husband). His health declined over the winter and, having made provisions for his wife and daughter, he died in 1648.

His will was proved in the Ecclesiastical Court on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 1649 and in it he bequeathed Stubbing Hill to his daughter, Mary, which included - *'All that Messuage or tenement and all and singular houses, edifices, barns, buildings, stables, folds, gardens, closes, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatso-on to the same belonging'*. In addition to this property he also left her *'one other messuage or tenement ...lying and situate and being in Slitherieford in the Parish of Keighley now in the tenure or occupation of one Stephen Firth'*. Having settled his land holdings, the will then turned to the disposal of his goods and chattels out of which were to be settled any debts and funeral expenses. He also left the sum of forty shillings to each of his nephews: Henry, John and Stephen Wright (the children of Stephen Wright and his sister Mary). The remainder of his goods and belongings were to be divided equally between his wife Elizabeth and his daughter Mary. With regard to his daughter's welfare, he gave the custody of her and the responsibility for her education to his wife Elizabeth during the time of her widowhood. However, *'if it fortune that she marry again then my mind is and I desire Richard Dixon of Sutton and Jonas Heaton of Allerton Yeomen shall have custody of the said Mary my daughter and of her person during her minority'*.

No doubt Mary was brought up at Stubbing Hill by her mother and remained there until her marriage to Robert Heaton of Ponden Hall, Stanbury on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1665. Following her marriage, the house probably remained the residence of her mother, but the lands and farm buildings are likely to have been occupied by a tenant.



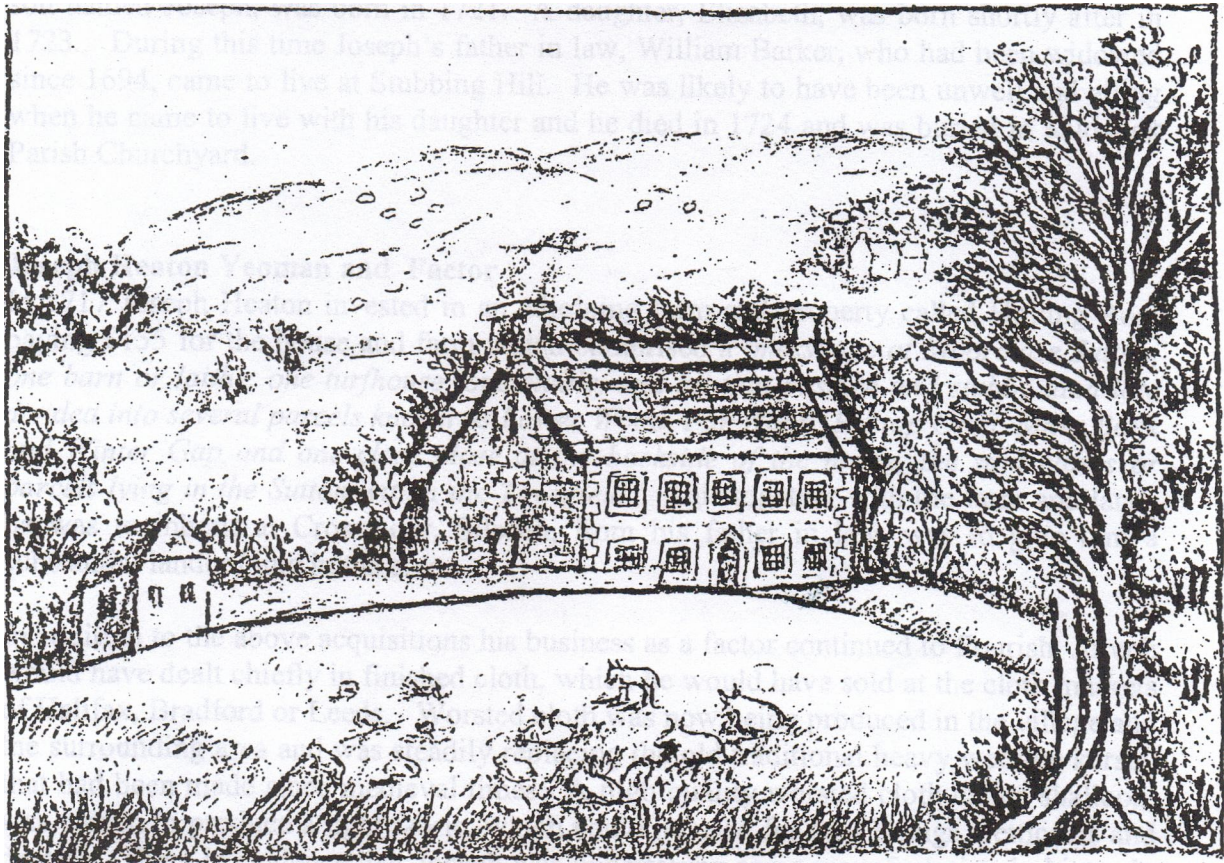
## FACTORS, FARMERS AND GLOVERS

### Joseph Heaton Yeoman and Factor

Mary and Robert Heaton had three sons: Michael, Robert and Joseph. All three grew up at Ponden Hall. As well as being substantial landowners, the family were also involved in the cloth trade and particularly in the manufacture of worsted cloth, which was gradually replacing the old woollen industry of Richard Spencer's day. The youngest son, Joseph Heaton, was brought up in this new trade and established himself as a factor or trader in worsted stuff or cloth. In 1707 he married Jane Barker, the only child and daughter of William and Elizabeth Barker of Crossmoor, Silsden (baptised at Kildwick 1684).

Following their marriage Joseph and his new wife leased Stubbing Hill from his parents. After the death of his father in 1714, he came to an agreement with his elder brother, Michael and his mother, by which the property was conveyed to him. The deed provides more details of the holding : *'messuage or dwelling house called Stubbing Hill and ten closes of land, arable, meadow and pasture, West Close, Royd, Oats Royd, Upper Close, Far Intack, Holling Hall Garth, Corn Intack, Craggside, Intack Head, and Rough Intack'* - the land being assessed at a total of 45 days work in the year.

Having acquired the ownership of his grandfather's house and lands, Joseph set about making his mark upon it. As a factor and merchant Joseph, would have travelled widely throughout the district and beyond, not only trading at the local cloth markets but also travelling to London where he would have dealt with the City merchants. During his travels, he would have been well aware of the new developments in the styles of housing and property. Many changes had taken place in the latter half of the seventeenth century and much of London had been rebuilt since the Great Fire of 1666. The old style heavy, narrow, mullioned windows had now given way to square ones with sliding sashes. These were invented in England around 1670; their pulleys and counter- weights enabled windows to be opened vertically. Front doorways had



**The house at Stubbing Hill from a drawing in Keighley Library.**



**Bridgehouse, Haworth, possibly built by the same builder as Stubbing Hill.**

also changed and ones with Classical pedimented hoods above them were becoming fashionable. Conscious of his status, and with money newly inherited after the death of his father, Joseph is the most likely candidate to have remodelled the house. He may also have been influenced by the rebuilding of other houses in the area such as Bridgehouse in Haworth and a house in School Street, Steeton (which has a date stone 1714). The work was restricted to the front of the dwelling, which appears to have been extended forward, with the old kitchen and parlour remaining at the back of the house. This gave the impression of a grand new house, whilst much of the old one still remained at the rear. The construction of a new front to an old house was common practice at the time. A number of houses in the district were similarly altered during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, including Sutton House and houses in Haworth and Keighley. That the reconstruction was restricted to the front is also born out by a later document, which specifically refers to the rooms at the rear comprising the old parlour, the kitchen and '*the Body Stead of the old house*'.

A description dated 1785 of the rooms in the house, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century sketch and a later photograph, give a good idea of what the 'new house' was like. The front door, graced by a classical pediment, was centrally placed with two ground floor windows to either side, one first floor window above and two more to either side of this window. The door led into a passageway with the principal room of the house on the left. This was called the '*Diamond Parlour*'. It is possible that the room took its name from a diamond-shaped plaster motif on the ceiling or on the overmantle above the fireplace. The room to the right was known as the '*Wainscott Parlour*' after the wainscoting or oak panelling to the internal walls. To the rear of the Diamond Parlour was the '*kitchen .. to brew, bake and wash*' and to the rear of the Wainscott Parlour was the '*old parlour*'. Both these rooms had originally formed the principal rooms to the Stuart period house but now found themselves relegated to secondary and service rooms. The '*Body Stead of the Old House*' remained sandwiched between the new house and the laithe. In addition to the ground floor rooms, there was also a cellar that provided cool storage for the preservation of foodstuffs and drink.

The first floor rooms included '*the best chamber called the Yellow Room*'. This room may have been the preserve of Joseph and Jane, who are now likely to have adopted the fashion of a first floor bedchamber. There was also a '*little chamber adjoining the best chamber*' which was above the old parlour. The chamber above the diamond room is referred to as being above the '*house*' and a further room, described as a '*closet*', was over the '*Body Stead of the Old House*'. At this period a closet was a room used for privacy and retirement. In addition, there was the staircase and landing, undoubtedly centrally located and lit by the central window above the front door. Above the first floor rooms was a useful attic that had a window in the gable end of the new house. The section of the old house, which was sandwiched between the 'new' house and the laithe, later formed a separate cottage to accommodate a farm man or servants. An eighteenth century stone fireplace still remains in the gable of the cottage and barn. It is likely that this fireplace was installed to warm the upstairs room in the '*Body Stead of the Old House*' at the time that the new house was built.

The adjoining laithe also accommodated a mistal, a stable and turfhouse (for storing turf or peat, which was the principal fuel of the district). The whole complex of dwelling house and barn is described in a deed of 1741 as being '*all under one roof*'; thus continuing the traditional longhouse construction. There were undoubtedly other outbuildings constructed at this time and they appear to have included a small '*brewhouse*' and '*swine cote*'.

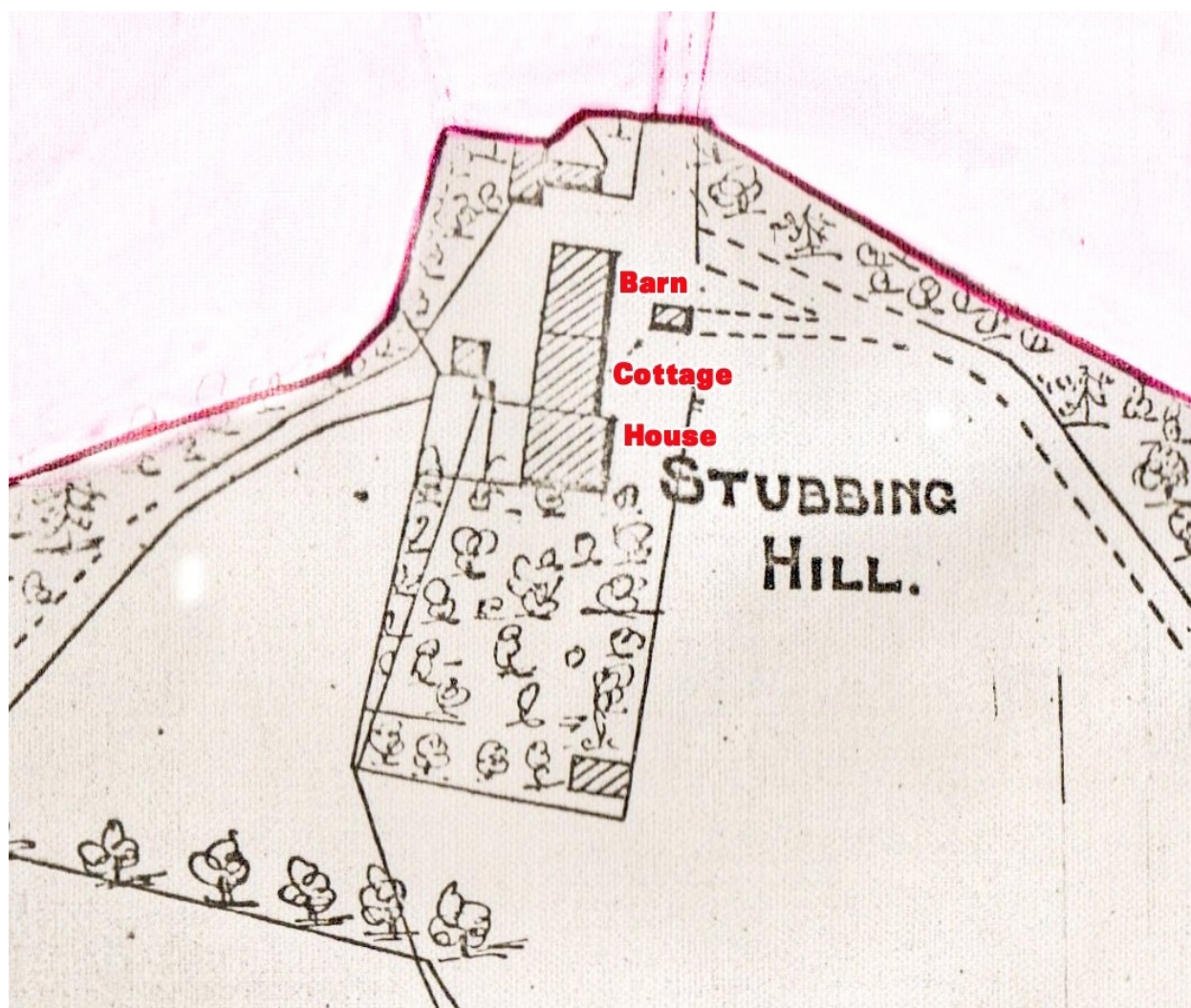
A formal garden was also created in an area to the east of the house. This was enclosed by a wall and had a small building at the sunny, south-east corner. This was possibly a summer house for the ladies to stroll to in fair weather.

The reconstruction had probably been completed by the time Joseph's first and long awaited child, a son named Joseph, was born in 1721. A daughter, Elizabeth, was born shortly after in 1723. During this time, Joseph's father-in-law, William Barker, who had been widowed since 1694, came to live at Stubbing Hill. He died in 1724



and was buried in Kildwick Parish Churchyard.

In 1717 Joseph Heaton purchased an adjoining farm and property called Holling Root. He paid £155 for the house and farm, which comprised a '*messuage at Moorclose Sutton, one barn or laithe, one turfhouse, one stable, and all that pasture and stubby land late divided into several parcels known as Lower Wood, Far Wood, Hilltop Croft, Mary Bank and Winter Gap and one close close at the backside of the house, the said closes or parcels lying in the Sutton within the Townfield.*' This, together with the farm and lands he was to inherit at Crossmoor, Silsden from his father-in-law, was to give him a substantial landholding in the area.



**The layout of Stubbing Hill from a 19<sup>th</sup> century plan.**

Whilst expanding his landed interests, Joseph also continued in business as a factor. He dealt chiefly in finished cloth, which he would have sold at the cloth markets of

Halifax, Bradford or Leeds. Worsted cloth was now being produced in the village and had replaced the traditional heavy woollen cloth that had been made since Tudor times. A worsted cloth called shalloon was made in Sutton. It was a high quality, light fabric, which could be used for coat linings, petticoats and dresses. There is evidence that Joseph was undertaking some manufacturing at Stubbing Hill in his early years, as the Kildwick Parish Register records the marriage of James Emmott, a woolcomber of Stubbing Hill, to Anne Wilson in 1726. Emmott was probably employed by Joseph to comb wool and may have lodged in the old *housebody* (now a separate cottage) between the house and the barn. Joseph was probably buying his raw wool from Thomas Driver of Browfoot, Ellers Road (now called Longhouse) who was the principal wool-stapler (or wool buyer) in the village. Once combed the wool was ‘put out’ to be spun, then collected and sorted and ‘put out’ again to be woven into finished cloth. It appears that Joseph was not only dealing at the local cloth markets but also directly with the London cloth merchants. Towards the end of 1728 he moved to the east end of London where he established a business foothold. He raised capital for this venture in June 1728 by arranging a loan from Thomas Driver, the Sutton wool-stapler, on the security of his lands at Crossmoor and Holling Root. He then moved with his wife and children to Aldgate, near London, where he bought a house.

Following Joseph Heaton’s departure, the cottage and land at Stubbing Hill was let to two successive tenants until he finally sold it in 1741.

### **Daniel Greenwood – Husbandman**

Stubbing Hill was first let to Daniel Greenwood and his wife Susannah. The Kildwick Parish Records described him as a husbandman – that is a farmer who does not own the freehold of the land he works. Daniel only enjoyed possession for about three years as he fell ill and died in December 1732. Although he did not make a will, his wife took out Letters of Administration to settle his estate. A short inventory was made of his effects, which were valued at £18 – 07s – 00d, a not inconsiderable

sum for a man of his status. Unfortunately, the inventory does not list individual items: the goods in the house being valued at £7 – 10s – 00d, those in the barn at £4 – 10s – 00d and goods in the fields (presumably cattle and other animals) at £6 – 7s – 00d. Joseph Heaton returned from London following Daniel Greenwood's death and assisted his widow with the administration of the estate; he was one of the signatories to the inventory. He then arranged for a new tenant.

### **Rowland Smith - Tawer and Glover**

The new tenant was Rowland Smith, a glove maker, who moved to Stubbing Hill about 1734. He belonged to a family of tawers and glovers from nearby Kildwick. Now largely forgotten, tawing was the process by which sheep and goat skins were processed and made into fine dress leather for soft leather gloves (as opposed to tanning which produced heavy dark leather for boots, belting, harness etc.).

As Stubbing Hill was some distance from the village and had no immediate neighbours, it was ideally located for Rowland to set up his trade. The problem of dealing in skins and curing them was the appalling smell associated with the process, and this required the trade to be conducted in a certain amount of isolation. Adequate water for the business would have been available from a small watercourse that passed through the land.

In 1741 Joseph Heaton finally made the decision to settle permanently in London and sold Stubbing Hill, Holling Root and his lands at Crossmoor, Silsden to Thomas Driver. With his newly raised capital and the proceeds from the sale of his house in Aldgate, he purchased a new property in nearby Shadwell - a maritime hamlet with wharves on the River Thames. It was an ideal location for a merchant dealing in the export of Yorkshire manufactured worsted cloth (following his death his son, Joseph, appears to have continued in business in Shadwell).

Following the change of ownership of Stubbing Hill, Rowland Smith moved his

business to the other end of the village, beyond the Sutton corn mill.

### **Thomas Driver - Wool-stapler**

The new owner of Stubbing Hill was Thomas Driver, who belonged to a long established Sutton yeoman family. He was brought up on his grandfather's farm at Browfoot, on Ellers Road, Sutton (now called Longhouse). When his grandfather died in 1714, he left the farm to Thomas's father, John, and the sum of £10 to his daughter, Ann, the wife of Robert Heaton of Aden in Sutton, a connection which was to become linked to the story of Stubbing Hill.

An enterprising man, Thomas Driver established himself as one of the foremost woolstaplers in the district. His business involved travelling extensively into the East Riding of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire to buy raw wool for the rapidly expanding worsted cloth industry. On completing his purchases, the wool would be brought back on pack animals to his warehouse in Sutton, where it would be sorted for quality, sold on or passed to out to local wool combers who prepared the long staples of wool for spinning into worsted yarn.

By the time he purchased Stubbing Hill, Holling Root and the lands at Crossmoor, Silsden, Thomas had already inherited his grandfather's farm at Browfoot. On his acquisition of Stubbing Hill, he moved into the property and having lost his first wife, he re-married, to Elizabeth Parkinson - a Sutton widow. He continued expanding his landed interests and purchased a number of farms and houses in Sutton, as well as acquiring land in Cowling, Silsden, Salterforth and Barnoldswick.

When he made his will in 1755, Thomas had elevated himself to the status of *gentleman*, which suggests that he had now retired from business and was in a position to support himself comfortably from his investments and estates. He drew up his will on the 7<sup>th</sup> December and described himself as '*beinge aged and somewhat infirm in my health but of Sound Mind and Memory ... and being anxious to settle my*



*affairs'*. It was witnessed by Anthony Petty, who was a Sutton shopkeeper, by Richard Petty, a yeoman, and John Taylor, a Keighley gentleman. He died in 1756 and as he had no children, he left his estate in favour of the issue of his father's sister Ann, the wife of Robert Heaton of Aden. These included his cousin, John Heaton and his sons, and the sons of his deceased cousin, Robert Heaton.

The Stubbing Hill property was inherited by Jonas Heaton, the eldest son of his cousin John, but with the provision that *'my wife Elizabeth shall have occupation of Stubbing Hill during her natural lifetime if it be her mind to do so'*. The household goods and effects were also left for her use. Jonas also inherited Holling Root and a property called Barrett House, or Whinney House, (now Bent Farm and then home to the Clough family). John Heaton, his cousin, inherited a property known as Scott Farm and also land in Sutton. John's second son, Joseph Heaton, inherited the farm at Browfoot (now Longhouse), Jackson Farm in Aden (Clough Head?) and cottages at Browside (Ellers?); a third son, Robert, inherited a farm known as Harper Aden in Aden; a fourth son, John, was left a farm and lands in Salterforth and Barnoldswick; and a fifth son, James, inherited the farm and land at Crossmoor in Silsden.

The three sons of Thomas Driver's deceased cousin, Robert, also inherited property. Robert, the eldest, inherited a farm and lands in Sutton called Upperhouse; Peter, the second son, a farm and land at Barnoldswick and William, the third son, a barn and croft and houses in Sutton. The lands in Cowling were left jointly to Peter and William.

### **Jonas Heaton – Yeoman and Manufacturer**

Although Thomas's widow Elizabeth had been left a life interest in the house at Stubbing Hill, Jonas Heaton wasted no time in moving in and was already in residence by the time the will was proved on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1756. By this date, both he and his father, John Heaton, had elevated themselves to the status of gentlemen. However, such pretensions did not last, and by 1760 both had taken a step back down

the social ladder to that of yeomen.

Notwithstanding his step back to yeoman, Jonas Heaton became a leading figure in the village and held both the positions of both Overseer of the Poor and Constable of the village. As an Overseer of the Poor, he would have had responsibility for the collection and distribution of the Poor Rate, which was used to maintain those members of the Township who had fallen on hard times. As Constable for the village, he had responsibility for the apprehension of miscreants and for bringing them before a Justice of the Peace and for dealing with such minor offences as drunkenness, which was usually settled by a period in the village stocks.

In 1763 he extended his landholding by purchasing a farm at Aden from Grace Smith, the widow of Michael Smith, referred to as Lower Farm (probably Wood Top). The property included eight closes of land estimated at 30 days' work. He also acquired other properties, some of which had been inherited by his brothers under the will of Thomas Driver.

Jonas Heaton married Susannah Swain of Manywells, near Cullingworth in the Township of Wilsden, and through her acquired a farm at Manywells. As well as receiving income from his tenanted farms and land, Jonas was also engaged in the worsted manufacturing business. At this period the trade was still a cottage industry with the processes being undertaken by outworkers. Changes were, however, in the air and in the decade following Jonas's death his successor to Stubbing Hill was to build one of the earliest water powered textile mills in the district.

Despite his marriage, Jonas did not leave any surviving children. Therefore, when he died in 1786, he left the bulk of his estate to his brother John's son, John Driver Heaton. His will was made in 1785 and left provision for his wife, Susannah, who was to remain at Stubbing Hill and to receive an income from his properties. His nephew, John Driver Heaton, inherited Stubbing Hill (both he and his father John

were living there at this time) together with Brow Farm (Longhouse), where his brother James Heaton was living; Lower Farm (Wood Top) at Aden; Holling Root; Brigg Farm; a cottage in Sutton and the land known as Holme. Various bequests were made to his wife and other members of his family and his wife's relatives. His wife received '*the Best bedstead with two feather Beds, Bedcloths hangings, and Bed linning to the same belonging to dispose of as she thinks fit and proper at her decease Also ... the enjoyment of my silver plate ...during her lifetime*'. To his brother James, he left £40 and to his sister, Mary Kippax he left £60. He left ten pounds each to his four nieces: his brother John's daughters, Mary and Alice and his brother James's two daughters, Joan and Susannah. Further legacies were made to his wife's relatives including the farm at Manywells. He also rather oddly left all his wife's clothes together with a clothes press (cupboard) to her relative Tabitha Swain. Fortunately this legacy was not to come into effect until after his wife's death.

### **John Driver Heaton – Mill Owner**

John Driver Heaton was born in 1765 - the son of John Heaton of Sutton and by the time of his uncle's death in 1786, he was already establishing himself as a worsted manufacturer.

As well as inheriting Stubbing Hill, he had also inherited Brigg Farm, together with the lands that extended down into the lower part of Lumb Clough, including the beck. At this period land adjoining a fast flowing watercourse was a valuable asset as dramatic changes were taking place in the textile industry. The invention of water powered machines to spin cotton had resulted in the setting up of the first mills. The inventor Richard Arkwright had perfected the cotton spinning frame, but following a number of court cases, was unable to enforce his patents. With Arkwright's failure to protect his inventions, the speculators moved in and the 'Cotton Boom' hit the Pennines. John Driver Heaton wasted no time and in 1789 erected a small speculative mill complete with '*dams, goits, reservoir, water wheel, tumbling shaft, landlords machinery and fixtures*'. Having built his mill, he now looked for a tenant.

He found one in Peter Hartley of Haworth who moved to Sutton about 1790 and commenced spinning cotton at the new mill. Hartley lived nearby at Brow Bottom Farm, where he raised his family. When the cotton boom crashed, he successfully changed to spinning worsted yarn. In 1812 he paid a yearly rent of £68 – 10s – 00d for the mill.

It is probable that whilst Clough Mill was under construction, John Driver Heaton also pulled down the old barn and '*body stead of the old house*' which adjoined the main house at Stubbing Hill. Both were rebuilt, reusing some of the old timbers, the new roof being supported with the queen post timber construction that remains to the present day. The site of the old housebody was enlarged to accommodate a separate cottage to house an agricultural labourer or farming tenant and the barn was also enlarged: a large single door opening providing access for both man, beast and wagons etc.

John is known to have had two children: a daughter Alice who was born in 1785 and a son Thomas Driver Heaton born two years later in 1787. In 1812 he signed his interest in the Clough Mill over to his son, who inherited Stubbing Hill and the other farms and land in Sutton when his father died.

### **Thomas Driver Heaton – Gentleman**

It is not clear what business Thomas Driver Heaton was engaged in, but it is likely that he followed his father into the worsted trade and that he was a merchant dealing in finished cloth. In addition, he had his landed interests and the Clough Mill. However, the site of the mill was very limited and offered no room for expansion and therefore when Greenroyd Mill in Sutton became vacant, Peter Hartley gave notice and moved his business there. Following the departure of Peter Hartley, the small mill was then leased to Joshua Clough, who was brought up at Bent Farm where his father and elder brothers Robert and John were in the worsted trade.

In 1815 the opportunity arose for Thomas Driver Heaton to increase his land holding following the decision of the Sutton freeholders to apply to Parliament to have the remaining open common lands enclosed. A total of nearly 2,000 acres was subsequently allotted and Thomas Driver Heaton received a total 40 acres of land adjoining Stubbing Hill. This additional land extended south across the moor as far as Hanging Stone Road. It took nearly ten years for the commons to be surveyed, allotted and then divided into enclosures by walls, fences or hedges. The final award was - *Published and Proclaimed on Sunday 29 February 1824* by Richard Ayrton of Scale House Rylstone.

About 1835 Thomas Driver Heaton moved to Bradford and let the house at Stubbing Hill to a schoolmaster, called Arahadal McFarland, who opened it as a Grammar School. The 1841 census reveals that he had a total of 14 residential pupils but he would also have had a number of day students. Although the school had closed down by 1851, it was still recalled as late as the 1940's when an old village resident, Sam Clough, referred to it in an interview with the *Keighley News*. One of the school's more famous students was Sir John Brigg whose family lived at Guard House in Keighley and who later lived at Kildwick Hall. He apparently looked back on his school days there with great affection.

In 1845 Thomas Driver Heaton sold Stubbing Hill and its lands, together with Brow Bottom Farm and the Clough Mill, to Robert and John Clough. The sale, however, was not a fortunate one for Joseph Heaton's fine Georgian house and heralded a period of decline for the property.

## **DECLINE OF STUBBING HILL**

### **The Cloughs – Worsted Spinners and Manufacturers**

It is impossible to know what was in the mind of Robert and John Clough when they purchased Stubbing Hill. However, there must have been some degree of satisfaction, as for a long period during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the Clough family had been

tenants of the Heatons, who had owned their ancestral home at Bent. They were also business rivals as both the Cloughs and the Heatons were engaged in the worsted industry. Whatever their motives, it was not their intention to live at the property but to utilise it for maximum profit. The census return of 1851 reveals that, by this date, they had divided the house up into tenements. The Clough's spinster sisters, Alice, Ann and Fanny, were living in one part of it with a servant, Sarah Lund, and the rest of the house and cottage was occupied by no less than seventeen other people. This incredible number included one wool-comber, who would be working on the premises with his hand combs, a charcoal burner and his store of wool; five hand loom weavers and their looms and one 13 year old worsted spinner who was working in one of the local mills; the rest of the number was made up of wives and children. The living conditions must have been appalling and obviously proved too much for the Clough sisters, who wisely moved out to a new house at Beechcliffe in Keighley. The invention of the combing machine by James Noble in 1853 quickly put the hand comber out of work and the replacement of the hand loom by the worsted power loom was slowly bringing to an end the life of the hand loom weaver. Gradually the tenants left. By 1861 the house was standing empty and no doubt much abused after some twenty-five years as a school, tenement and work place. Although the house was unoccupied, the cottage and farm were tenanted by John Smith and his son William. The farm at this time comprised 52 acres of land. On the evening of Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1863, Stubbing Hill House caught fire. The following is the report from the Keighley News:-

*Fire – On Saturday night, about half past ten o'clock, an alarm was given that a fire had broken out in Stubbing Hall, Sutton. Soon after the news arrived in Keighley, the fire brigade with two engines hastened to the spot, but before they arrived the roof had fallen in. Their attention was therefore at once diverted to the farm house and barn, and these they succeeded in saving from the fire. The conflagration was extinguished about six o'clock Sunday morning. This would, no doubt, have been accomplished sooner had there been*

*a good supply of water at hand. The old hall was completely gutted, and reduced to a mere ruin. The hall had not been occupied for the last two years; there was consequently no furniture inside. The fire appears to have originated from the firing of the chimney in the farm house. It is supposed that a beam connected with the hall, going into the chimney, became ignited. The property belongs to the Misses Clough, of Skipton Road, Keighley. Much praise is due to Mrs Murer, of Keighley, for the promptness shown, when the news arrived at Keighley, in having her horses sent to the Gas House, where the fire engines are kept. Never were engines got off sooner than they were on Sunday morning. Mr Falshaws horses soon followed with the second engine.*



**The burnt out shell of Stubbing Hill photographed about 1900.**

(photograph Doris Riley)

It seems remarkable that in the days of small hand operated, horse drawn engines anything was saved at all. The house, as the report states, had been completely gutted. The property was probably not insured and the owners, Robert and John

Clough, (not the Clough sisters as reported in the Keighley News) did nothing to rebuild or replace it. It was to remain a ruin for the next forty five years.

### **Richard Widdup - Farmer**

Whether any blame was laid on John Smith is not known, but he left the farm shortly afterwards and was replaced by a new tenant - Richard Widdup and his wife Jane. They remained at the farm until the turn of the century and were to bring up their six children there. For a time, Richard also ran a carrier's business - taking and collecting parcels and goods to and from Keighley.

During the early period of Richard Widdup's tenancy an amusing incident occurred that has now become a folk tale in the village. The subject of the tale is Jack Walton, a somewhat eccentric young man, who was known as 'Painter Jack' and lived in the village with his mother. He received his nickname from an interest in painting, although his talent was apparently somewhat limited. He is said to have been asked to paint the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. However, the finished work was just a daub of red paint. When asked what it represented he said, *'It's Israelites crossin' t'Red Sea, well they've gotten across and sea's swept ower t'Egyptians*. Jack also had an interest in man powered flight and chose Stubbing Hill as the testing ground for his new flying apparatus. His machine is said to have been a ramshackle arrangement of basket work, with wings which were strapped to the arms and the body. With confidence in his contraption Jack prepared to test his invention by jumping off the barn roof. As the day of the trial dawned, Jack initially lost confidence; however, a large crowd had gathered and were determined not to go away disappointed. Not wishing to lose face, he climbed to the top of the barn roof and strapped the apparatus on to his body. The crowd are said to have shouted words of encouragement, such as *'Next stop London', 'If tha does it Jack, tha'll be made Mayor o' Sutton'* and *'Cum dahn i' Sutton, Jack'*. Others shouted more cautionary words, *'What'll thi muther do withaht thee, Jack'* and *'Tha daft fooil, cum dahn t'way tha got oop. Tha nivver did owt reight an' tha nivver will'*. Strapped into his apparatus, he summoned up his



courage and then took a deep breath and leapt off the barn roof. Despite flapping furiously, his basketwork wings failed to support him and he crashed to the ground. He was helped up and disentangled from the wreckage. Though badly bruised and shocked, there were remarkably no broken bones. Helped home to his mother, it was reported that she received him rather coolly with the words, *‘Tha gert gawmless fooil, aw knew summat like this wod ’appen’*.

In 1883 the Clough Family agreed to the sale of a small piece of land along side West Lane to the Sutton-in-Craven Water Company Limited. The water company used this land to build a reservoir, to provide drinking water for the village. Following the construction of the reservoir easements were granted in 1897, and again in 1903, for the passage of a series of five inch pipes and the construction of a number of balancing cisterns that both enabled both water to be brought from the land above at Crag Nook and, likewise for it to be piped across to give Stubbing Hill its first on tap water supply. From Stubbing Hill the pipe travelled on to Hollin Root and Crag Farm whilst the principal water main went down West Lane to feed the village.

### **Departure of the Cloughs**

Under the will of Robert Clough, the property was held in trust for the family, but in 1907 the trustees sold it to John William Hartley of Sutton Hall. The sale was a fortunate one and heralded a new phase in the development of Stubbing Hill.

## **THE TWENTIETH CENTURY HOUSE**

### **John Willie Hartley – Worsted Spinner and Landowner**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 1907 John William Hartley purchased Stubbing Hill and its 52 acres of land. A shy and private man, he was the grandson of Peter Hartley who had come to Sutton from Haworth and tenanted the Clough Mill from John Driver Heaton. Peter Hartley had subsequently moved to Greenroyd Mill and the family bought this mill in 1861. John Willie Hartley, as he was better known, inherited the business from his father, also called William. Although he was not a very public man,

he set about buying up properties and farms in the village, building up an estate much as Thomas Driver had done during the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Many of the cottages and farms were improved and rebuilt under his ownership and these include: Daisy Place, in the village; Bow Hill, Low Fold Farm; Holling Root; Bank Top, Briggate and others.

He was 57 years old when he acquired Stubbing Hill and he immediately set about having the old fire ruined house demolished. Much of the rubble was brought forward



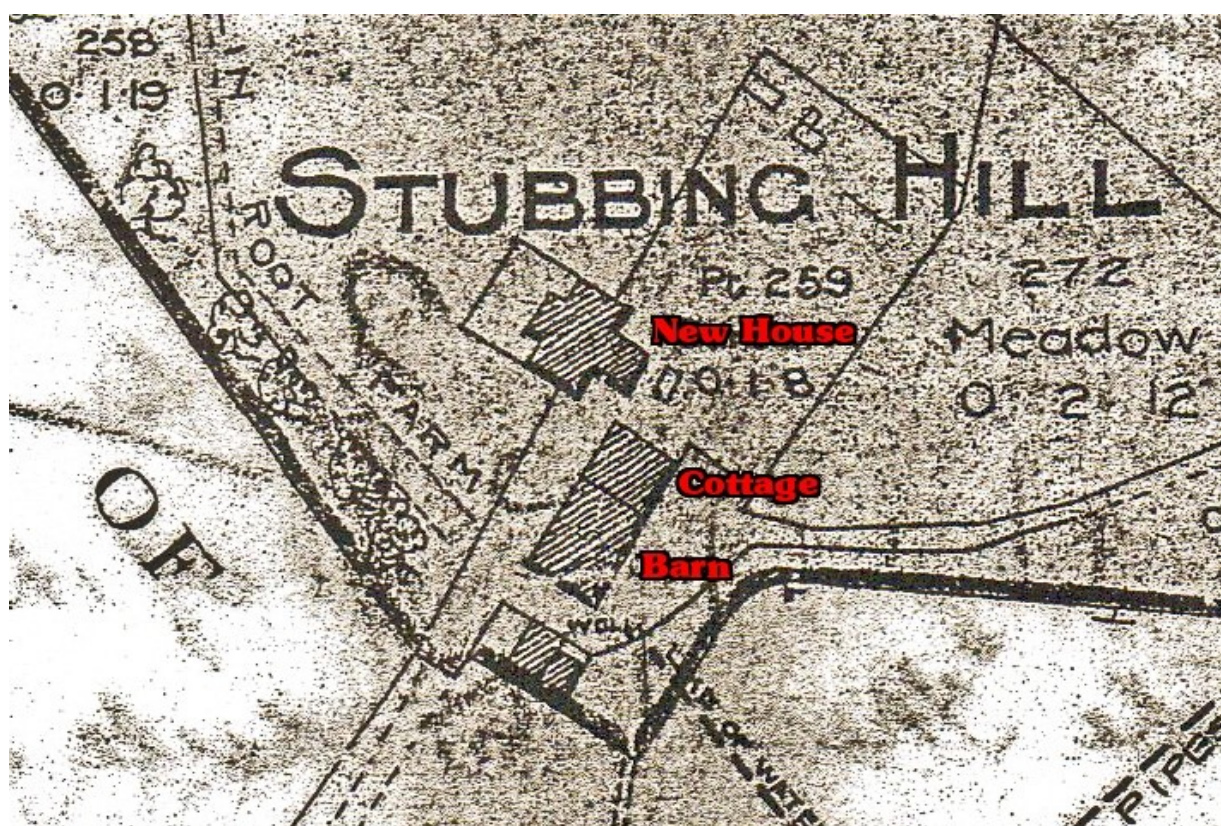
**The new house at Stubbing Hill built about 1908 by John Willie Hartley.**

of the original frontage to provide a base for a new house. The new dwelling followed a design that had been applied to a number of Hartley's farmhouses around the village. This design comprised two front rooms to either side of a central front entrance, a small hall with a central staircase and to the rear a large square farmhouse kitchen. Below the hall was a small keeping cellar. The central staircase lead up to a landing with doors to three bedrooms and a small bathroom.



As well as rebuilding the house John Willie, also had the pigsty and outbuildings demolished and replaced with new ones. Little work, if any, appears to have been done to the barn and the attached cottage was probably abandoned at this time and used as an outbuilding.

Within twelve months of construction work being completed, John Willie, fell sick and, after a long period of illness, died on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1909. His properties were left in trust for his spinster cousin Emma Hartley, who had resided with him at Sutton



**Layout of the new house from a deed plan of 1925.**

Hall however in 1911 agreement was reached with the Trustees to sell nineteen of the farms that he had owned in the village. The sale was not a success and twelve were either withdrawn or received no offers; included in these was Stubbing Hill.

However, later that year an offer was made to purchase Stubbing Hill by Joseph Bannister and his wife Margaret, and a sale was agreed. At this time, the farm was occupied by a farmer called Duckett Taylor who had replaced another short lived tenant by the name of Thompson.

### **Joe Bannister – Village Baker**

Joe Bannister was the village baker had a house and shop at number 28 Main Street in Sutton Mill, he may well have been the son or grandson of Stephen Bannister, who with his young family, had lived at Stubbing Hill when it was a tenement in the late 1840's. Joe purchased Stubbing Hill from the executors of the late John Willie Hartley in 1911 and the land holding that he acquired comprised *'the farmhouse recently erected ...barn mistal stable outbuildings garden wood plantations and nineteen closes of meadow pasture and woodland ... .*

Taking advantage of his 53 acres, Joe turned his hand to farming. However, it would appear that baking and farming were not a good combination and he eventually leased the farm to Herbert Snowden.

### **Herbert Snowden – Dairy Farmer**

Originally the tenant of Joe Bannister, Herbert Snowden purchased Stubbing Hill and the farm in December 1925 for the sum of two thousand pounds. At that time, a farm of 53 acres was a reasonable size and enabled Herbert to run a small dairy herd and to deliver his milk in the village, supplying - amongst others - Frances Ogden's (later Francis Wagstaff) sweet shop at Holme Bridge, where it was used to make home made ice cream.

The greatest change to occur under the ownership of Herbert Snowden was the installation of electricity. Although an event that goes largely unrecorded, and is now taken for granted, it enabled dramatic changes to be made in both the house and farm. Electric lighting was a great improvement to safety compared to the dangers of naked candlelight or oil lamps, and on the farm, it enabled milking to be undertaken during the darkness of the winter months. The introduction of electric vacuum operated milking pumps also improved the lot of the dairy farmer and enabled him to keep more animals than he would have been able to cope with if he was milking by hand.

Herbert Snowden continued to farm at Stubbing Hill until his death in 1941 - following which it was sold by his family. He was the last occupier to successfully run it as a farm. His death brought an end to the long history of subsistence on the site that had begun when the land had first been 'stubbed and cleared' almost five hundred years earlier.

The new owner was Frank Appleton of Keighley. He and his wife moved to Stubbing Hill and, during their short ownership, gradually sold off a large part of the land. Walter Pickles, who lived in Bent Lane, Sutton, purchased some of the land and some went to the occupants of Lane Top: a small cottage and barn higher up West Lane.

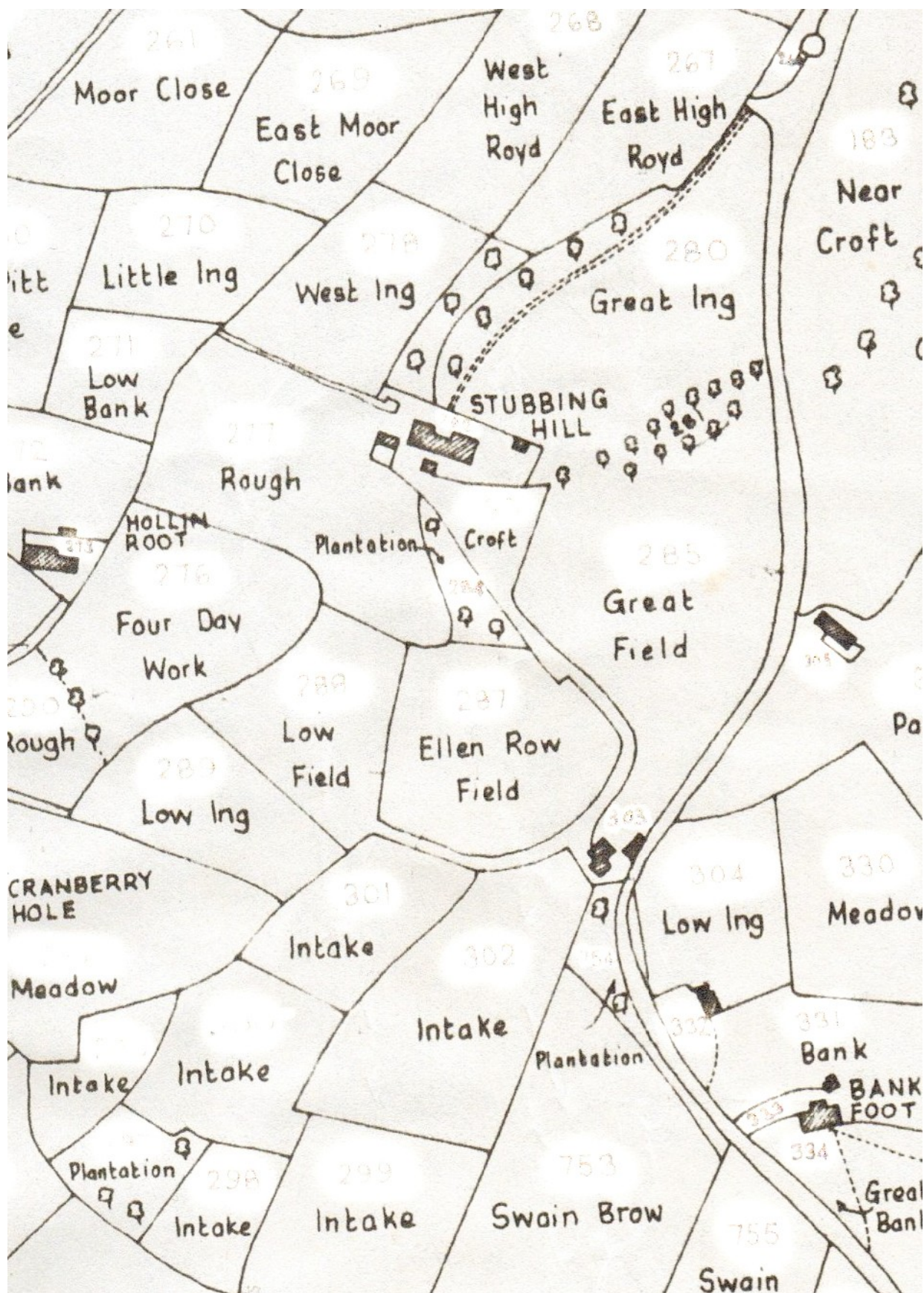
In 1946 Frank Appleton sold Stubbing Hill and the remaining land to Joseph Edward Weatherhill and it became a private residence.

## **STUBBING HILL THE FAMILY HOUSE**

In 1946 Stubbing Hill entered a new era when for the first time in its history it ceased to be a place of work. Since the first of the Spencers, or their predecessors, had swung their mattocks to stub out and clear the land it had been a farm. During the Tudor, and Stuart period the land had provided the bulk of the foodstuffs to sustain the families that lived there, but now it was to be just a family home.

The new owner, Joseph Edward Weatherill, was from Embsay near Skipton where he was the manager at Skipton Rock Quarry. In his purchase on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1946 he bought '*ALL THAT farmhouse with the homestead barn mistal stable and other outbuildings to the same adjoining and known as Stubbing Hill together with the garden plantation and several closes of meadow and pasture called by several names....*'. The remaining fields were the Great Ing, the Croft, the Near Great Field and the Far Great Field, together with the Plantation, all of which totalled 11 acres 2 roods and 6 perches.





**Stubbing Hill and the surrounding land from a copy of the Tithe Map of 1840, showing the Great Ing, the Great Field (subsequently divided) and the Croft.**



Joseph and his family were to make Stubbing Hill their home for the next fifty years. In order to keep the land in good order, the grazing was let to Frank Ingham who farmed at New Laithe Farm in Sutton Mill and later to his sons, Harry and Tony. The Ingham family continued to lease it for many years, eventually giving it up shortly after they moved to Scott House Farm at Glusburn. Joseph Weatherill added a kitchen extension to the rear and converted the former kitchen into a dining room but otherwise made few alterations to the property. He died in 1971 and left the house and land to his two sons: John and Edward Weatherill. His widow, Elizabeth, had a small bungalow built at the bottom of the Great Ing where she spent her remaining years, dying in 1991. John Weatherill, and his wife Susan, and family moved into the Stubbing Hill House and eventually, following a number of internal family transactions, acquired all the remaining land.



**Stubbing Hill Barn and cottage now converted into a single dwelling.**

The property is now settling down to further changes with the conversion of the barn to a dwelling, but change is something that is not unfamiliar to Stubbing Hill. The site during its long history has had at least three, if not four, different houses on it. The various houses have been home to yeoman farmers, cloth merchants, tawers and

glovers, wool-staplers, worsted manufacturers, mill owners and speculators. One house was run as a Grammar School and then divided into a tenement occupied by hand-loom weavers and wool-combers and then returned to a farm again before finally becoming a private residence. Stubbing Hill has seen many changes, each in accordance with its times but despite the many changes it will no doubt continue to remain the site of a family home as it has done since at least Tudor times.

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