

The Cawton Family The Tannery (The White House)

The Cawtons were tanners who lived at the White House in Calver Road. The tannery was adjacent to the house.

This summary starts with the Rowlands, a prominent local family who had lived in Baslow for generations. They owned houses and land in the village, including in the late 1600s, some fields on the east side of Calver Road just beyond the White House. It is not known when or how the family first got an interest in tanning, and it also not known when the White House and the tannery were built or who was involved, if any, before the Rowlands. The first mention of the industry is in the 1829 edition of the gazetteer Glover which lists Michael Rowland as a tanner.

Michael Rowland 1770-1842 was a member of the Horsleygate branch of the Rowland family. In fact this family had left the Hall sometime around ?1800, so he must at some point have moved back to Baslow and started his career as a tanner. There is no record that he had children. His sister Etheldred b1766 married in 1796 Joshua Cawton from Sheffield. It is not known whether he was a tanner, but his two sons Joshua jun 1798-1835 and Charles b1805 certainly were. Joshua jun married and Charles remained a bachelor.

Michael Rowland started or took over the tannery sometime before, perhaps long before, 1829. He retired fairly soon. His nephew Joshua was the tanner in 1835 (Pigot's gazetteer). Joshua's tenure was short. He died the same year at the early age of 37 and his family left the village leaving his brother Charles in charge.

In 1841 (census) Michael and his sister Etherdred were lodging with Charles; Michael died in 1842.

Charles Cawton remained in the White House for over 20 years, described in gazetteers as a tanner and fellmonger (dealer in hides). He lived with his unmarried sister Mary. There is no mention of him after the 1861.

By 1871 the premises were in the hands of Samuel Hibberd joiner and builder

Please refer to the Rowland family on my website

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