

Part 1. The occupants

The Marples of Baslow were a large extended family living in Baslow. Many were skilled craftsmen who together made a major contribution to the village.

John Marples (173-1811) was a carpenter who lived in Bubnell he must have been prosperous either by diligence or inheritance as his eldest son John (1770-1834) became a millwright living one of the few freehold properties in Baslow, at a guess Magnolia Cottage (present name) in School Lane.

There are confusingly four John Marples who were millwrights

John 1770-1834 married Elizabeth -- Senior

John 1794-1874 married Hannah -- Junior

John 1828-1903 married Caroline - Grandson

John b1857 married Elizabeth -- The last

ALSO John Jun's brother Joseph 1796-1847 married Elizabeth.

It is not known when John sen started the business in the village, probably early 1800s. Soon he was joined by two of his sons, John jun and Joseph, both millwrights.

A major event in the village was the Baslow Enclosure Award in 1824. Freeholders benefited and John Sen was given a plot of land in School Lane (see below) large enough for two houses and workshops. The business thrived in the new premises. They were the only millwrights in the vicinity which included Chatsworth the home of the Duke of Devonshire.

According to the gazetteer Glover John Sen was a millwright in 1829, and John Jun a millwright and machine maker in 1962.

John sen died in 1834. Joseph died at the early age 51 in 1847: none of his sons became millwrights though his son John b1828 a joiner may have continued in the family firm for a while.

John Jun became sole owner and the business continued to prosper. He was also a contemporary of Joseph Paxton the famous head gardener at Chatsworth. They lived only ½ mile apart and must have known each other well. I have copy of some Marples family notes which say the John Jun "built Crystal Palace" which opened in London in 1851. This seems unlikely to me but I do think it probable that Paxton with the ideas and John with engineering knowledge at least discussed together the Chatsworth greenhouse and subsequently the Crystal Palace.

John Jun died in 1874 and was succeeded by his son John (the grandson). He was still in business in 1901 but it must have closed shortly after as the whole site was sold some time before his death in 1903, The last John b1857 was also a Millwright. In the 1911 census he was described a "Millwright Cornmill" and lived in Church Terrace. He kept his trade but the old family firm had long gone.

Part 2 The Abney House site

John Marples Sen was given in the Baslow Enclosure Award of 1824 a plot of land in School Lane now occupied by Abney House including the front garden and the adjoining bungalow Amhurst. The site was developed to include by 1848 (details from the Tithe Award) two houses occupied by the Marples brothers John Jun and his brother Joseph b1796, and the millwright workshops. The upper house, close to

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the Methodist Chapel was occupied by John Jun. It is possible that John Sen built Abney house first for himself and the one next door for his eldest son John Jun. When he died in 1834 his second son Joseph remained in Abney House. The latter died in 1847 but his widow Elizabeth remained there until her death in 1872.

John Jun died in 1874 leaving the business in the hands of John the grandson who took up residence (probably) in Abney House about that time. Between 1879 and 1898 he bought some adjoining land to creating a large rear garden, and an orchard now occupied by the two bungalows away from the road. He was still in business in 1901 (census) but died in 1903 after selling all his properties which included some beyond School Lane to Mr John Tasker. According to the Marples family notes the sale raised £45000 (this seems an enormous sum to me dds).

Mr John H R Tasker b1849 was an electrical engineer of national repute inheriting the company set up by his father. It is still in business today. Amongst other things he was responsible for creating the electricity generating system for Sheffield and Manchester, and building the private telephone exchange in Windsor Castle.

In Baslow he installed a generator at the Mill on Calver Road to provided electricity to the church and Abney House. In School Lane he greatly enlarged the Abney House (?? rebuilt it completely) demolishing all remains of the millwright occupation

Tasker left Baslow some time in the early 1900s, and the house was sold on to several owners. In due course the site was divided and all the land uphill (east) of the house was sold to a developer. The three bungalows were built there in the 1970s

Note. Originally the house would have had no name. At some point, probably after the rebuild by Tasker it was called the Red House. It still looks red today. Later it was changed to Abney House. For convenience I have used this name throughout.

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1799 Not marked on the 1799 Rutland Estate Map.

1824 Enclosure Award site of Abney House awarded to John Marples.

The site next door (east) approx. site of Amhurst bungalow nearest road marked REB Marples. (? significance but freehold). No house

1848 Tithe Award No 63 (Bungalows) freehold John Marples. Approx same area as bungalow nearest road No 64 Abney House freehold Elizabeth Marples. House shown on map. No extended garden at this stage

Comment Elizabeth widow of Joseph

1879 OS map Little change

1898 OS map Larger area now occupied by Abney House and 3 bungalows appears as a single complex, containing the 2 houses mentioned above and a clear area behind them

1922 OS map The original Abney house obviously enlarged or completely rebuilt with outbuildings behind it extending alongside the western boundary (beyond the present outbuilding). The garden now includes all the larger area shown in 1898. John Marples House no 63 in 1848 has been demolished

1970 Ariel photo no change. Soon after that the property was divided with most of the garden to the east sold off and developed with 3 bungalows

1829 Glover - John Marples first millwright. Last 1862 John Millwright & machine maker

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Census

1841 Joseph b 1800 millwright single entry

1841 to 1871 John b1794 millwright

1861 – 1901 John jun b1828 millwright

1891 John b1857 Millwright (lived Nether end) and 1911 Millwright Corn 1891 John b 1857 Millwright lived Church

Terrace

Tithe 1858 Joseph in Abney, John (1794) in other

Census

Joseph then his widow Elizabeth (d1872) lived in Abney till 1871 John in other house. ??moved into Abney in 1972

Births

John a carpenter had sons John b 1770, Joseph b1781 George b1783

Census 1901 John Tasker b1848 in house Electrical engineer Called Tilecoat

Very close by John Marple b 1828 widower. Still a millwright and employer

1867 Electoral register John Tasker above Sheffield owned freehold house and land in Baslow Tenant George Whalley

Census 1939 Humphrey Bowles Solicitor. In Abney House

Family Notes

Included in family tree. John sold all his land, Red House and other properties to "Taska" for £45,000 (note dds this seems a very large sum!)