

## Bubnell Cliff Farm

Bubnell Cliff Farm is the only building at the southern end of Bubnell. It is situated about 1k west of Baslow, and 250m south of Wheatlands Lane (earlier the 1759 Turnpike from Baslow to Hassop). It is on the present footpath, possibly an early minor road, from Bubnell to Pilsley. It can be dated back to the early 1700s, but it may well have been a homestead since earlier times. In 1848 (Tithe Award) the farm had 88 acres in a solid block between Wheatlands Lane and the Rymas brook in the valley to the south (the Parish Boundary). The fact that Wheatlands Lane was the definitive northern border of the farm suggests that the fields were formalised after the formation of the lane probably 1759 or possibly earlier. Later its size increased as other farms closed down. All farmers in Bubnell were tenants of the Duke of Rutland, Lord of the Manor at the time. The Duke of Devonshire acquired the whole of Bubnell in 1870

The Dobb family were early occupants of Bubnell. Helen Dobb married George Marple in 1674. The Hearth Tax records mention Robert Dobb with 1 hearth in 1664 and 1670. The first mention of Bubnell Cliff is the death of Robert Dobb in 1708. It is possible that the Dobbs were resident in Bubnell Cliff before 1708, they certainly were after that date. There is no mention of them in the Court Rolls up to 1500.

Robert of Cliff was succeeded by his son John and grandson John. The last occupant, William, probably the son of John, died in 1790. There is no evidence that William had any family.

It is interesting to note that there are two "Edges" either side of the road to Chesterfield, which meet near Robin Hood. The northern Edge is named after Gardom, who lived at Yeld Farm, and whose land included extensive millstone stone quarries on that Edge. The southern is named Dobb Edge suggesting that both families were quarry owners or operators.

The Dobbs are buried in Baslow churchyard. They have two large adjacent coffin type memorials with stone posts at the corners, situated close to the main church entrance. This is evidence of a well to do family.

The Matleys were an old established family in Greenhead (Over End) in Baslow. Robert Matley b1758 had a number of children. Parish records show that his first three were born in Baslow 1751 to 1754 (ie presumably not Bubnell). His fourth child Mary b1793 was born at Bubnell Cliff as were his subsequent children. He must have moved to Bubnell Cliff shortly before 1793 and remained farmer there until his death in 1827. There is no known connection between the Dobb and Matley families: his mother Ann nee Howard came from Bubnell.

His son David K Matley inherited the farm. David died in about 1840 at the early age of 36, leaving his mother Sarah in charge until her death in 1846. She is recorded as the tenant in the Tithe Award of 1848

The elder daughter Mary married Thomas Marples farmer of Bubnell. The youngest daughter Eliza remained a spinster until she was 39, marrying in 1846 the year her mother died. Her husband was John White (1820-1900) son of a nearby Bubnell farmer. He farmed at Bubnell Cliff until his death in 1900, to be followed by James Rhodes, John Chapman, Ernest Holland, Cyril Smedley, Henry Rains and finally Chris Mills.

The farmhouse was rebuilt about 1890. Over the years the farm gradually increased in size, taking over land when other farmers left. It remains one of the two farms in Bubnell, both of which still belong to Chatsworth (The Duke of Devonshire).