

The Edensor Family Tree

The Barker Family lived in Edensor from the late 1500s to the early 1800s. The earliest record in the parish registers is of William Barker who married Ann Diken in 1566. There followed two main branches (see the family tree) by his sons Thomas and Robert. The latter prospered: later two of his descendants were stewards to the Duke of Devonshire. In 1786 another descendant John, occupied the most prestigious house in the village, today "The Old Vicarage". This could well have been the family home from an early date. The Duke of Devonshire bought a number of dwellings in the village in the early 1800s. Maybe this included "The Old Vicarage", thus explaining the departure of Barkers from the village.

The "Barkers of Bakewell and Baslow" are well known in the history of the lead mining industry in the area. In this respect, Baslow included Edensor. William 1683-1736, the first of the Edensor stewards, went into partnership in 1729 with Thomas Barker 1701-1752 of Bakewell, the steward of the Duke of Rutland. Their sons John of Bakewell and George of Baslow continued the partnership between 1743 and 1749. Since then the two families went their own ways, but both remained heavily involved in lead mining, smelting and selling. It has been suggested that the two families were related. I could find no connection in the parish records

William's eldest son Alexander 1709-1784 took over the post of Steward to the Duke of Devonshire. The lead industry business interests were inherited by all his sons Alexander, William, George and John. George 1722- 1752 married his cousin Deborah White of Baslow in 1743, and had four children in Baslow before his early death in 1752. Some time later his widow and children moved to Topley.

Alexander and John had no children.

The descendants of George and William, by then living outside the area, maintained their interests in the lead industry until they sold out in 1817.

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