

## The Broomheads of Bubnell

The Broomheads were in Bubnell since the mid 1500s. The earliest reference is John Bromhead ( the spelling varied) who was buried in 1573. The family home was Bubnell House, an established house in the main village next to the present Bubnell farm. In 1664 it had 3 hearths (Hearth Tax) making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest house in the village after Bubnell Hall. In the 1848 Tithe Award it had 140 acres of land, making it the largest farm in a small village of large farms.

The family can be traced back to Bartholomew whose son Simon was born in 1575. His grandson John of Bubnell 1602-1680 was Smelter to the Duke of Rutland. It is certainly possible that the family fortune came from lead mining and smelting which was thriving at the time. John had two surviving sons.

The elder Robert 1638-1698 left the family home to live in the newly built Bubnell Hall (nine hearths). He was not the first occupant. He must have been a wealthy man too afford it. He died without children and the Hall was inherited by his niece Elizabeth 1687-1755 who married Thomas Gardom. John 1642-1719 the younger son remained in Bubnell House. His children and grandchildren lived in the village until the mid 1700s when they moved to Baslow Bridge. In due course Bubnell House was taken over by the Oddy family

## The Broomheads of Baslow

Nicholas was the first Broomhead recorded in Baslow: he died in 1751. He may have been related to the Bubnell family, perhaps the son of John of Bubnell b1642 but more likely he came from elsewhere.

In the porch of the church there is a framed sheet of lead dated 1785 with imprints of feet and hands, and the inscription “ J Farrer Minister, John Grundy and Thom<sup>s</sup> Broomhead Church Wardens and N Broomhead Plumber”.

Nicholas Broomhead 1760-1846 was the grandson of the first Nicholas and probably the plumber noted above

In the year 1819 a local farmer (Kitchen) was having financial problems. To tide him over Nicholas lent him £1000, an enormous sum in those days, worth perhaps a million pounds today. He was a beneficiary of the Enclosure Award of 1824. He owned six acres of steep rough ground near Cupola in Baslow which was desired by the Duke of Rutland. In return he got an acre of land at the bottom of School Lane, on which he built the houses of Church Terrace, and a large ornate house for himself. This was the largest in Baslow at the time which he called “The Cottage” (recently the name has been changed to “Baslow House”). Nicholas was a wealthy man.

Glovers gazetteer 1829 describes him as a Maltster and Victualler. In 1841 and aged 80 he was living with his son Joseph Innkeeper at the Peacock Inn (The Cavendish Hotel today). It is not known when the family took over the Inn. It must have been after 1730 when a Marsden was Innkeeper, and before 1829

The 1848 Tithe Award reveals the extend of the family property (all leased from the Duke of Rutland). By that time both Nicholas and his son Joseph had died leaving the latter's widow Mary the main tenant. She had the Inn with buildings across the road and over 100 acres of good arable land west and south of the Inn. There was The Beeches a large house close to the church described in the Tithe Award as a

homestead. It might have been the family home before they took over the Inn. In addition there was Nicholas's private properties at School Lane.

Mary kept the Inn until she died in 1868. It was probably (as there is no record) inherited by her eldest son William but he died two years later in 1870. In 1871 the census records a joint tenancy of Nicholas Anne and Catherine all unmarried children of Mary. It did not last long and they left the village during the 1870s. There is no further mention of Broomheads in subsequent censuses

The tenancy of the Inn went to Maria Stuckey, sister in law of Joseph Eades, Innkeeper at the Wheatsheaf. She too died soon within a few years and Joseph Eades left the Wheatsheaf to become Innkeeper of the Peacock.

### The Calver Broomheads

There was an active Broomhead family in Calver. It is not included here. Some of my Baslow Broomhead references may belong to this family.

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