

## The Froggatts

The Froggatt family of Froggatt has been traced back to the 1400s with earlier comments in the Baslow Court Rolls. It was a prominent family in the locality owning several properties in the area

In 1620 the main family headed by **Thomas 1590-1645** moved to Folds farm in Calver. It was the largest in the village and remained the main family home for generations. The family, Yeomen at the time, were well off and had interests including lead smelting as well as farming.

**Thomas b1619**, son of Thomas b1590 by his first wife, married into a Bubnell family and started a dynasty at Cross Farm. One of his descendants married into the Damm family of Gorse Bank Farm. His grandson **Alexander Damm Froggatt 1752-1817** inherited the tenancy.

The descendants of Thomas b1590 by his second wife remained in Folds Farm. Several generations later, the eldest son of the family **Samuel 1721-1814**, left Calver and moved to Moorside in Robin Hood.

## The Froggatts of Bubnell

**Thomas Froggatt 1619-1688** was a man of many abodes. He was born in Froggatt, was living in Bubnell when his children were born and died in Stoke Hall ( a family connection). He was a lead smelter owning at least two smelters on Stoke Brook near Calver Sough.

In 1639 he married Mary daughter of Richard Hodkin of Cross Farm in Bubnell. As there were no male descendants Mary was heiress:. When Richard died (the tenancy of) the property was inherited by her husband Thomas. Cross Farm became the Froggatt family home for the next seven generations. At least initially there was inherited wealth, and the size of the farm (90 acres in the Tithe Award of 1848), would have ensured that they remained one of the wealthier Bubnell Farmers.

The family fortunes changed during the tenancy of Joseph b1843. In 1870 The Duke of Rutland sold Bubnell, all of it, to the Duke of Devonshire. The latter wanted a lasting legacy in the form of a new model farm, which remains today at the top of the village. When completed in 1885, there was a major reallocation of land. Joseph lost his entire farm, and was moved to the admitted spacious Bubnell House nearby. The 1890 census labels him as a farm labourer. His son and then his married daughter remained in the house until the late 1900s.

## The Froggatts of Gorse Bank Farm

Robert Froggatt b1693 great grandson of Robert above married Maria daughter of Alexander Damm the farmer at Gorse Bank. He had no sons so when he died in 1751 at the age of 85 the tenancy passed through Maria to Robert's son Henry Froggatt and his grandson Alexander Damm Froggatt, who were responsible for both Cross Farm and Gorse Bank Farm. When Alexander's son Thomas came of age, he became full time farmer at Gorse Bank which remained with this family for the next five generations.

Alexander Froggatt b1874 did not or could not buy the property at the great 1920 Rutland Sale. He left the farm which bought by David Thorp.

## The Froggatts of Moorside Farm

Samuel Froggatt 1721-1814 was an eldest son of the Calver family at Folds Farm. Instead of waiting perhaps for decades as a "farmers son" for his inheritance, he married in 1753 and by 1754 had moved to Moorside, an isolated spot ¼ mile from the road at Robin Hood. Why he did this is a mystery. Independence, commercial interests, proximity to Chesterfield or even mining talents (he grew up in a lead mining community) may have played a part. Of interest his younger brother later became a mercer in London

There may or may not have been buildings in place when Samuel and his new wife arrived in Robin Hood. Also unknown is the amount of land that came with it, possibly less than the 75 acres confirmed in the 1848 Tithe Award. By then the farm covered all of the Baslow coalfield north of the road. The western part had earlier been worked out leaving scattered mounds and pits but there were deep shafts to the east active until the early 1800s. The northern part of the farm may have been moorland before 1754 but was certainly enclosed by 1799.

Over the next 100 years, Samuel and his descendants toiled to build up the farm and tame the broken ground for agriculture. Benjamin the last farmer and died a bachelor in 1971. The farm, much the same today as it was in 1848, was sold.