

## The Geeson Family

NB Data mainly from the Census returns (if the date ends in "1" it is from the Census returns), but also from Parish records, memorial inscriptions and other sources

See attached family tree

**Richard Geeson** b1796 came to Baslow in the early 1800s, probably in the 1820s. The 1841 census records him as a carpenter. By 1851 he had become an Ale & Porter Dealer. He then either rented, or purchased The Alma, a newly built, conspicuous building in Baslow Upper End (now Over End), just off School Lane. The date on it 1854, refers either to the battle, or the year it was built, or both. It was one of the few freehold buildings in the village at the time.

The Alma was a Beer House which Richard Geeson ran until his death in 1860. He was succeeded by his eldest son Ralph Frances b1828. Another son Arthur b1852 was innkeeper there in 1881. From 1891 ownership passed out of the family to Charles Fowler then his widow Ellen.

Richard married first a neighbour Lydia Penistone, who died in 1840. He then married his servant Elizabeth Hawley. After his death Elizabeth moved into a house nearby, to become a small farmer and lodging housekeeper. She died in 1890

### Richard's children

Mary Ruth b1832, was "at home" in 1851, then by 1861 was a housemaid in St James Palace in London. Quite a feat for a rural Baslow girl!

Albert b1845 was working in the scissor trade in Sheffield in 1861

George b1848 was a blacksmith in Sheffield in 1871

Arthur b1852 took over the Alma in 1881: after his mother died he was (1891 census) a grocer, presumably working in his mother's old house.

### Possibilities

There were major building works in Chatsworth in the 1820s and 1830s and a need for skilled craftsmen. It is possible that Richard Geeson was employed at Chatsworth. If so he may have enabled his daughter to get a job in service there with subsequent transfer to London.

My thanks to Michael Geeson of Sheffield for much useful information about his family

David Dalrymple-Smith

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