

Bubnell Hall and Bubnell House Broomhead, Oddy and Gardom families

Introduction

Three families, Broomhead Oddy and Gardom, occupied Bubnell Hall and Bubnell House from the 1690s to the late 1800s. The Hall is well known. The Bubnell House is at the original centre of the hamlet at the top of the hill. Probably from early times and certainly from 1800, the properties were held leasehold from the Manners family/The Duke of Rutland. When one tenant died, there was always a family connection with the following tenant. Both houses had over 130 acres of land. (1848 Tithe Award)

This article traces the tenancies over the years

First Oddy (employed by 1st Earl)

In 1684 William Cavendish became 4th Earl of Devonshire – later 1st Duke. He started rebuilding first the gardens at Chatsworth then the House. Part of the improvement was large iron railings, which included pairs of Iron Gates. Chatsworth records note that they were built by “N & Oddy in 1687/88” It is likely that they still exist as “The Golden Gates” at the Baslow entrance to Chatsworth Park

Both craftsmen were recruited by the Earl of Devonshire. Where they came from is not known but an Oddy was employed in the building of Buckingham House.

John Gardom

Born 1664
Married 1695 Anna Greensmith of Pilsley
Died 1713 aged 49
Residence Yeld Farm, Far End, Baslow)

The Gardoms were substantial tenant farmers, Yeoman, based at Yeld farm in Baslow, at the bottom of the present Sheffield Rd. The fact that John’s uncle went to study in Cambridge emphasises the status of the family.

John was also a blacksmith, and was responsible for the west staircase in Chatsworth built in 1702 (there is a plaque at the top of the stairs)

There is a possibility that he may have been present or even involved with the iron gates and railings at Chatsworth (in 1687 he would have been 23)

Anna Greensmith

Born 1677
Married 1st 1695 John Gardom
Married 2nd 1715 Richard Oddy

The Greensmiths were from a prominent family in Pilsley (a village close to Baslow). Her sister was married to White Watson. Anna first married John Gardom but he died fairly young aged 49. Two years later she was married to Richard Oddy sen. She had children by both husbands.

Broomhead family

John Broomhead b1602 of Bubnell House was smelter to the Duke of Rutland in 1639.

- His eldest son Robert 1638-1698 was wealthy and lived in the newly built Bubnell Hall: he died without children.
- A second son John 1642-1719 continued in the family home. It was inherited after his death by his daughter Elizabeth.

In 1709 Elizabeth married Thomas Gardom (the younger brother of John the blacksmith) and moved into Bubnell Hall,

Richard Oddy Sen

It is likely that Richard was the son of the first Oddy (see above) who made the gates at Chatsworth

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Born 1682 Died 1753

Married 1715 Anna Gardom nee Greensmith widow of John Gardom the blacksmith

Richard is described on a plaque in Baslow Church as a "Gatesmith". It is likely that he was the son of the first Oddy mentioned above, and that he was trained by him as a blacksmith specialising in ornate iron gates.

He married Anna John Gardom's widow only 2 years after his death suggesting that the pair were well acquainted, probably through work at Chatsworth. He probably took over the tenancy of Bubnell House when John Broomhead died in 1719. His family were certainly in the house some years later. As mentioned above he was closely related to the Gardom and Broomhead families

He was followed by his son Richard 1716-1785

Bubnell Hall

Robert Gardom 1677-1723 (John Gardom's younger brother) married Elizabeth Broomhead and inherited Bubnell Hall. His son John 1721-1788 married a wealthy widow and became a businessman. He (and John Pares) built Calver Mill

In the early 1780s there was a reorganisation at Bubnell Hall. John Gardom who built Calver Mill died in 1788. His eldest son Thomas had married in 1783 and shortly after moved to Cliff House (now Cliff College). The Hall was enlarged (probably in the 1780s or perhaps earlier) and divided into two parts, "The Hall" close to the road, and the larger newer "Farmhouse" alongside

The remaining Gardom family stayed in "The Hall". In due course they left or died and by 1841 the Hall was boarding school for girls

Richard Oddy (the 2nd) 1716-1785 and his son Richard Oddy (the 3rd) 1751-1814 took up residence in "The Bubnell Hall Farmhouse" some time between 1783 and 1786

Bubnell House A John Barker moved into Bubnell House in the late 1700s. He was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth who died or left in the mid 1850s.

It is noted that there were prominent Barker families in Edensor and Darley Dale who were related by marriage with the Greensmiths and Gardoms.

Later Oddy family.

The third Richard Oddy b1751 and his son Jepson 1792-1850 remained in "The Farmhouse". Jepson's elder brother Caleb was a businessman who lived away and probably had no interest in farming

When Jepson died the tenancy of Bubnell Hall Farmhouse was awarded to Thomas Gardom of Yeld Farm, a direct descendant of John Gardom the blacksmith and distant cousin of Caleb. Subsequent tenants were John Smith of Bridgefoot Farm and then Cyril Smedley. Bubnell Hall and Farmhouse were sold as one unit in 1960 and became a single private dwelling house.

Ann Oddy 1898-1878, Jepson's sister, made a late marriage to William Hattersley in 1842. Her stepson another William Hattersley 1823-1897 occupied Bubnell House when John Barker's spinster daughter died or left in the mid 1850s.

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