

The Rowland Family

The Rowlands were an important Baslow family. The name first appears in Court Rolls dated about 1500. The known family tree starts in 1605 when there is a record of the baptism of Dorothy daughter of **Humphrey** Rowland.

His son **Robert** 1610-1674 (Dorothy's brother) was taxed for two hearths in 1672 indicating that was one for the more prosperous in the village.

Robert's grandson son Robert b1668 married Prudence Sleigh of Cordwell Hall and left the village. His family then occupied the Hall for several generations. His son became a Cutler in Sheffield. A descendant of this branch was Michael Rowland 1770-1842 a tanner in Baslow. His sister Etheldred b1766 married Joshua Cawton 1767. Their two children Joshua b1798 and Charles b1805 were both tanners, inheriting the Baslow tannery at White Lodge from their uncle Michael.

Robert's (b1610) youngest son Thomas b1640, a butcher continued the family line in Baslow. Details from wills show that this family owned (or were tenants of) more than one house in the village and also some land: two closes Stone Field and Clefurlongs(?) are mentioned in one of the Rowland Wills. These are probably two of a group of fields later called Stoney Furlong, situated at the north end of the village off Calver Road.

Thomas's grandson **Humphrey** b1715 was a freeholder (unusual in Baslow), living in Sycamore Cottage (modern name) situated between Daisy Bank and School Lane. In the tax return of 1772 he also owned a Freehold Farm paying a tax of £1 04 04. His daughter Anne b1752-1839 married Robert Wilson of Stanton Ford: The house remained with the Wilson family for two further generations, The last of the Rowlands in the village died in the 1830s.

It is interesting to note that in the 1848 Tithe Award there was a compact group of eight freehold properties on both sides of Daisy Bank and two freehold fields (now developed as Church View Drive and Over Road). This suggests that the area had been a freehold homestead or small farm which at some stage was broken up "for development". This might have been a Rowland property originally, or the family could have bought Sycamore Cottage from an earlier owner.

There was another Rowland family in Calver living in a substantial house close to the Cross. William b1812 was a lead miner. His eldest son Robert b1837 came to Baslow. The census shows that he was a baker and confectioner living in The Old Bakehouse in Nether End in 1881. He then moved across the road to become innkeeper at the Wheatsheaf Inn over the years 1891, 1901 and 1911.

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