

The Wyer Family

Charles and Ellen Wyer arrived in Baslow between 1884 and 1888 from Worksop in Nottinghamshire to live in Toll Bar Cottage, close to the bridge in Baslow. The tolls had been abolished in 1879 and the toll keeper Frederick Faulkes left to live in Bakewell. The house was then purchased by the Duke of Devonshire. Charles was a painter and decorator: it is possible that the Duke recruited him to work at Chatsworth House.

Charles died in 1891 aged only 40 years. The family stayed on in Toll Bar Cottage for 10 years or more, before moving to a cottage nearby across the river.

All the sons started work as gardeners, perhaps for Chatsworth. Charles the eldest son then became a plumber: William the youngest worked at least in later years as a gardener for Chatsworth

Albert b1885, trained as a baker, a qualification noted in the 1911 census. Some time after 1920 he rented premises at Church Farm in Church Street. His shop was the single room building to the left of the entrance to the farmyard, now an Art Gallery: the ovens were in the farmyard buildings behind. He married Alice Needham in 1927 and about the same time, moved into Willow Bank, a house newly built in Calver Road. Relatives of his wife helped in the shop - Violet Ligo and Nellie Higgins are names well remembered by older people in the village.

In 1939 he bought the newspaper and tobacco shop at Nether End, in the house that is now the Italian Restaurant. Unfortunately the business failed soon after. The family left the village for Dronfield where Albert took up a job as an insurance agent.

His daughter Alice Ellen married Mr James Grayson: they returned to live in Derwent Drive for a few years in the 1960s and 70s.

Notes on Baslow Mill

Mr Edmund Hodgkinson was the miller at the mill on Calver Road. He died in 1901, and it seems that milling stopped. However he was also a baker. The 1911 Census records list two bakers close by, Albert Wyer and Henry Goodwin, suggesting that the bakery carried on probably until 1920 when the mill, together with much other property in the area, was sold by the Duke of Rutland. The schedule to the 1920 sale includes the words "Oven, capacity 150 loaves".

Even if Albert did not work at the mill, the closure of the bakery would have presented an opportunity for him to set up his own business.

The Faulkes Family

Frederick Faulkes was born in Mansfield, Nottingham in 1846. In the late 1870s he was employed by the local Turnpike Trust, working at Robin Hood and Baslow. By 1879 he was living at the Toll House at Baslow Bridge. The Turnpike closed the same year, and by 1881 he had moved Water Street, Bakewell where the census describes him as a baker.

By 1891 he had returned to Nether End in Baslow, to the house at the foot of Eaton Hill now the Italian Restaurant. The Census first listed him as a General Labourer, but in 1901 and 1911 he was a "Boiler Stoker". The local gasworks was only yards away across the road. He died in 1920 at the ripe age of 75 years. His wife died 13 years later in 1933.

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