



# HISTORY OF KIRKBY GROUP

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## SOUTERGATE

VOLUME TWO

### 'OLD BRIDGE HOUSE'

On 7th April 1822 John Addison bachelor of Greenbank in Broughton married Jane Postlethwaite spinster of Gargreave. The witnesses were John James, William Brocklidge and Matthew Postlethwaite. Over the next twelve years, John and Jane lived in Soutergate. They had 'Old Bridge House', originally known as 'Bridge House', built in 1833



Seven children were born to them:- Jane, 31st March 1823, Richard, 8th April 1825, Elizabeth, 2nd November 1826, Roger Postlethwaite, 27th April 1828, Ann Isabella, 5th December 1830, John, 2nd December 1832, and Maria Agnes, 20th July 1834.

For several years after the family left, the house was occupied by tenants.

Through the will of the widowed Jane, dated 20th June 1861, and the wills of her spinster daughters, Maria Agnes and Ann Isabella, dated 7th November 1885, the property passed into the joint ownership of four people. They were George Frederick Addison, (a mercantile clerk from Blackpool), Eleanor Ann Addison, (a spinster of Barrow-in-Furness), Elizabeth Alice Burnet, formerly Addison, (the wife of a schoolmaster of Adlington Hall, near Chorley), and Agnes Jane Addison, (also a spinster of Barrow-in-Furness).

On 4th December 1900 they did '*grant bargain sell surrender release and convey unto John Barton and his heirs, 'all that messuage or dwelling house and shop with the yard out offices garden orchard and appurtenances thereunto belonging'*'.

Whether the house started life as a shop is uncertain, but it quickly became one, and operated as a grocer and provision merchants until the 1940s, later selling confectionery produced on the premises.



### 1881 Census - The Grocer's Shop

Thomas Woodend and Jane Woodend (mother) were running it together. By 1891 Jane Woodend had died and the shop was being run by Thomas and two of his female cousins. Thomas at the age of 47 years then married Mary Chamley of Pear Tree Farm. He continued to live at the shop until nearly the end of the century.

Jill Baines and Audrey Benson

The Grocer's Shop circa 1908. The sign says "General Store, G. Dobbs, Grocer".

## The Marriage of Thomas Woodend and Mary Chamley June 1st 1892

"Great interest was taken in the marriage of Mr Thomas Woodend to Miss Chumley, and many were the good wishes for their future happiness. The wedding day was fine and bright, a happy augury, we hope for their future lives."

'The members of the Women's Union by the kindness of Mr. Thos. Woodend were entertained on Thursday, 2nd June. About 39, including a few specially invited in addition to the members of the union present, sat down to a more than usually attractive tea. The appreciation of Mr. Woodend's hospitality was forcibly expressed, after the health of himself and his bride had been drank in tea, by one member who wished that he might live for ever, and give a similar tea each month.'

**"Extract from a local Journal"**



This happy augury was not to be. By 11th April 1903, Mr. Woodend's wife and three of their four children had died. **Mr. Thomas Woodend, standing, with unknown couple, circa 1915.**



'Morden' was probably given its name by Dora Winder, a daughter of the then owners. She was married briefly to an army officer by the name of Cartwright. Sadly he was killed in the First World War. He came from **Morden** in Surrey. The picture on the left is one of several drawings found in the house. One book is named J.J. Winder and dated 3rd January 1893. John J. Winder was three months old at the time of the 1881 census. His father and grandfather were blacksmiths in Soutergate. The grandmother of Mr. Arthur Newton was brought up in Chapels. Once a month after school she walked to Soutergate to pay the 'rates' at 'Morden', the money being sewn into her pinafore. There was an office in the hall where the money was collected.

1851 CENSUS					
PLACE	NAME	TITLE	AGE	OCCUPATION	BIRTH
'Morden'	<i>William Winder</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>Blacksmith (Master) Farmer of 11 acres</i>	<i>Broughton West</i>
	<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>43</i>		<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Blacksmith (App)</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Sarah</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Employed at home</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Margaret</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Anne</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
1891 CENSUS					
PLACE	NAME	TITLE	AGE	OCCUPATION	BIRTH
'Morden'	<i>Thomas D. Winder</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>45</i>		<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Dora</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>John J.</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Margaret A. James</i>	<i>S-in-Law</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Living on own means</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Alfred Kellet</i>	<i>Apprentice</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Blacksmith's apprentice</i>	<i>Pennington</i>

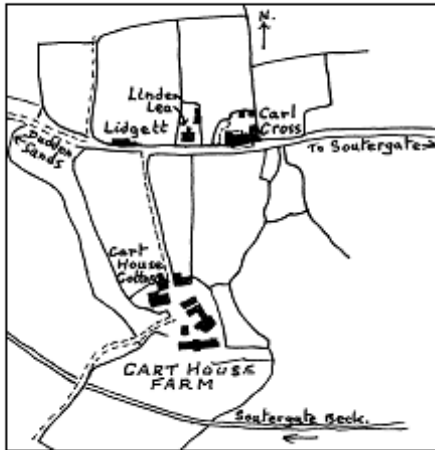
By 1901 Thomas D. Winder had become an Assistant Local Overseer hence the collection of 'rates' at 'Morden'. Dora Cartwright lived at 'Morden' until her death. John J. Winder then lived in the house until his unfortunate death in 1956.

## 'CART HOUSE FARM'

Continued from Volume One

The old doorway with its sturdy ridged porch leads into what originally was a cross passage to another outside door in the far wall, this also has a porch with a lean-to roof.

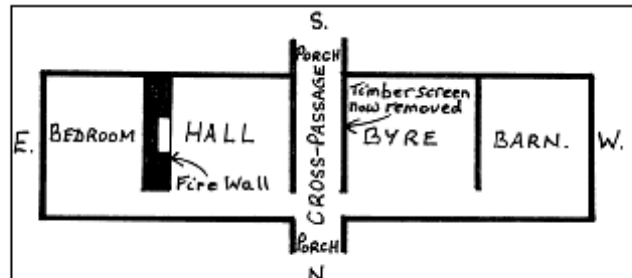
Another door in the wall of the cross passage gives access to the hall with a very thick fire wall on its eastern side, this could possibly be hiding an inglenook. The farmhouse is built with its gables pointing east and west ensuring that the building would get the warmth and light of the sun along the full length of its long south wall and the fact that the house was built only one room deep would make sure that each room received its fair share of sunlight.



On the upper floor a passageway has recently been constructed along the south wall allowing access to the old granary / potato store which has been converted into a modern bathroom. Also this passage allows access to the bedrooms without having to go through one room to reach another. The windows on this upper story are almost at floor level and the situation of them in relation to the ones on the ground floor would be determined by the position of the roof tie beams which have been cut through in making the access doors and passageways into the rooms.

Summing up old farmhouses is never easy. This one I feel has a very long history indeed and when originally built, perhaps around the sixteenth century, would most probably have been a single story structure with low eaves and the rooms open to the roof. Over time it appears that the external walls have been raised and windows and an upper floor put in. Access to this floor was probably by a ladder until the staircase was built at a later date.

All the clues point to the fact that the farmhouse is a vernacular cross-passage long-house, traditionally built with local materials in a simple style which has evolved over the centuries to suit the farming needs.



The cross-passage runs transversely across the building, providing access to the house from both the front and rear and dividing the living quarters from the service rooms or, originally from the byre. This passage would originally have had a timber screen flanking one side of it.

There is one date carved within the house not on the structure itself but on a lovely, old, oak court cupboard. The date is 1661 with the initial C. over I. M. Does this stand for I. & M. Coward? Was it constructed in the farmhouse or brought in from another place? More research is needed to learn more about it although we may never know owing to the fact that the parish records before 1681 have vanished. These old cupboards were fashionable throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> century and during the first three-quarters of the 17<sup>th</sup>. The name Court Cupboard is Anglicised from the French word "court" for short i.e. a chest or two door cupboard or a wooden stand with two or three tiers, used to display pewter, silver, etc. The earliest mention of Cart House comes from the very first entry in the parish records of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century recording the burial of Isabell Kirby in 1681.

George Woods

## SOUTERGATE EMPLOYMENT

Continued from Volume One

In 1851 there were five shoemakers, three grocers, three blacksmiths and two beer-houses. Soutergate must have been a busy place then. There were always lots of children and almost all above the age of five must have had some form of schooling as they were described as 'Scholars'. One of the beer houses was run by a Mary Hartley, a widow. She had children and a grandchild with her and, in 1871, her son, Edward, is shown as a 'Teacher' and living with his mother, still at the beerhouse, plus Mary's two grand daughters and a grandson.

There was a revival in farming by 1881 and six farmers are listed. Jonathan Tyson and his sister-in-law, Hannah, were in partnership at Headgate and James Tyson, the butcher, was also described as 'Farmer of 52 acres'. Despite the increase in farm ownership, only five farm servants and five agricultural labourers are recorded. Was this the result of early farm machinery or the difficulty of attracting men away from the more lucrative mines? Miners predominated in the village in 1881, but there was also some diversity including a Solicitor, a Manager (of the local Co-operative Stores), a Confectioner, a Waller & Builder, a Tea Dealer and two House Carpenters - mostly small one-man enterprises. 'General Domestic' had by this time become the accepted term for the house servant and many women described themselves as 'Housekeeper'.

Over the period 1841-1881, the village gradually opened up to the outside world and its influences. Population changed and more were born outside the area. In 1841 when the Census recorded only if a person was local-born (in the parish) or not, a mere 5.3% of Soutergate's inhabitants were born outside the village. From 1851, censuses gave place of birth and though most non-local born came from neighbouring counties, there were others from as far a field as Kent and Devon. In 1871, at the height of the iron-ore mining boom, the figure shot up to 50% non-local born; in 1881 it settled back down to 39.4% of villagers born outside the area.



With the space of a decade between each Census, small changes in employment and population cannot be measured, but bigger overall changes show up quite obviously. During 1841-1881, the three main sources of employment can be seen as agriculture, slate quarrying and iron ore mining plus some small businesses employing few people and changing constantly.

A survey taken today would probably show that only two of the old industries remain to any great extent - that of agriculture and slate.

June Whitehead

1851 CENSUS					
PLACE	NAME	TITLE	AGE	OCCUPATION	BIRTH
<i>Lidget:</i>	<i>Cornelius Coward</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>Shoe Maker (Master)</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Sarah Coward</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>73</i>		<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Cornelius Coward</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Slate River</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>Atkinson Coward</i>	<i>Grandson</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>
	<i>George Myles</i>	<i>Lodger</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>Slate River</i>	<i>Kirkby Ireleth</i>