

Quarrington's big houses and their occupants in the 19th century¹

Introduction

Of the dozen or so above average sized houses in the township of Quarrington, in the 19th century, most were pubs or farm houses, at least two of which were quite grand buildings. There was also the vicarage, built in 1870, and either one or two that are likely to have been built specifically to house colliery owners and managers.

Some of the latter played important parts in the history of coal mining, not just in the immediate area but regionally, and even nationally. This paper looks at who these were and also at other Quarrington residents of note during that time.

Occupants of the vicarage (now "Grey Gables") are listed in a separate account, in the "Churches and religion" section of this website. Similarly, it is intended that the various pubs and farms will be covered by accounts in the "Pubs and clubs" and the "Farms" sections.

The account below concentrates mainly on residents of Quarrington who were prominent in the coal mining industry.

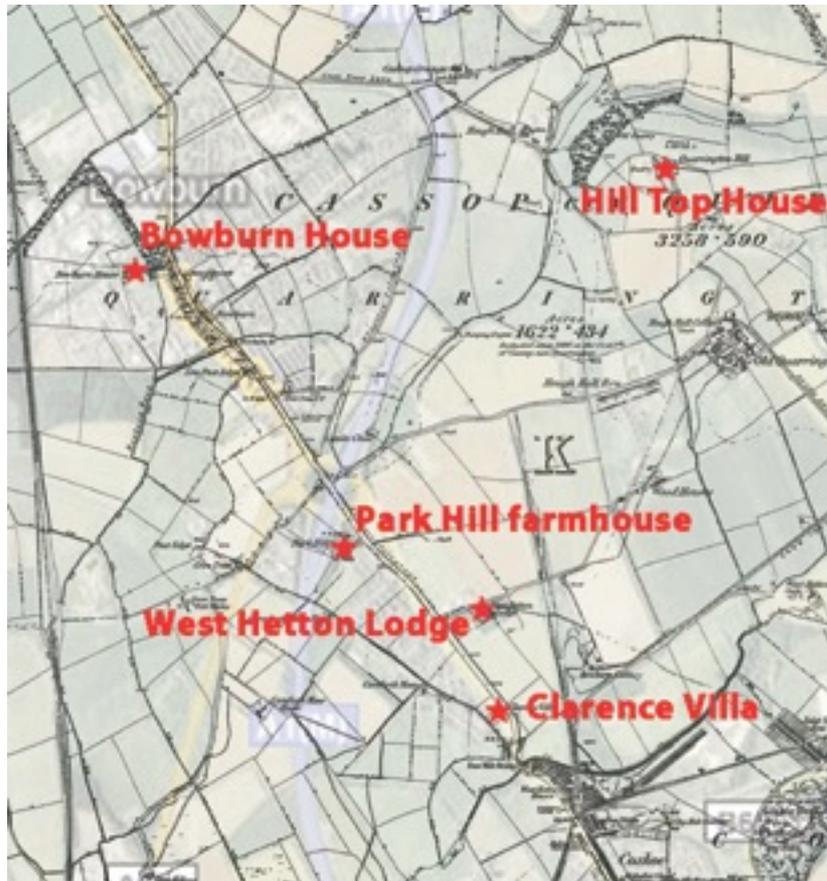
Only houses in Quarrington are included. Those in Cassop, for instance, [including Tursdale, which was a sundered part of that township], Coxhoe and Shincliffe are not included here. Nor are houses that were not built till the 20th century, such as the colliery agent's house, Bowburn Grange, which is now Bowburn Hall Hotel.

The houses listed below are:

1. Bowburn House – though this is also mentioned in the "Farms" section of this website
2. Park Hill House – though this is also mentioned in the "Farms" section
3. Clarence Villa – though there is a separate, longer history of this building in the "Pubs and clubs" section
4. West Hetton Lodge
5. Hill Top House

The locations of these are shown below on a copy of the 1st Ordnance Survey map (1857) superimposed on a modern satellite view (thanks to Google Maps).

¹ These notes were originally written in preparation for a talk on "Researching Bowburn Collieries", given to the Durham Co. LHS in Jan 2009. Various amendments and additions were made later. It was decided to separate out the story of Quarrington's big houses and their occupants, from the one about the Quarrington (and Coxhoe) early collieries, though they significantly overlap. A separate paper about these collieries – in particular about where they were and who owned them – will therefore be posted in the "Early coal mining in the area" section of this Bowburn LHS website.

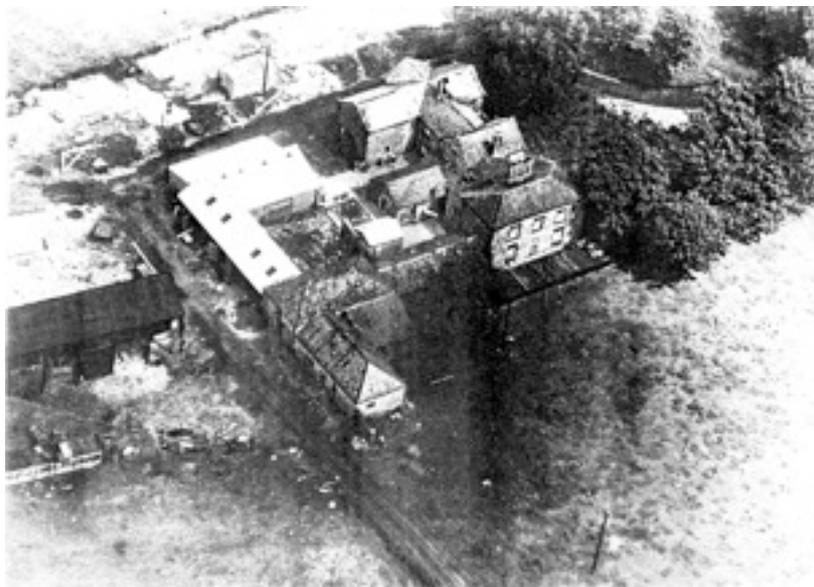


It would be difficult to appreciate the significance of some of the people mentioned in this account, without some understanding of the history of coal mining in the area. However it was decided to try to tell the two sides of the story separately. Something is inevitably said below about the coal mining and, indeed, the railways and the iron and steel industry in which Quarrington and Coxhoe played such an important part. However that history will be the subject of a separate account, in the “Early coal mining in the area” section of this website.

1. Bowburn House

The new shaft of Bowburn Colliery began to be sunk by Bell Bros. on Bowburn Farm in 1906. This became known as “the colliery farm” or “John Hare’s Farm”, after the man who farmed it for most of the 20th century. But it had before that been called, variously, Bowburn Hall, Bowburn House, the Blue House and Quarrington Moor House (or just Moor House). These last names may, however, have been those of an earlier building on the same site.

Bowburn Hall, or House – not to be confused with the 1920s’ Bowburn Grange which is now known as Bowburn Hall Hotel – was an impressive, two-storey building, built of good stone (not rubble), with 2’6” thick walls. It had an imposing front door with studs. There were two sets of stairs. Upstairs there were six bedrooms and – in the 20th century, at least – a bathroom. Downstairs, there were six rooms and a lot of space wasted [according to Alfred Hare, who lived there] on passages. There were no cellars. Bowburn House was demolished c.1978.



Bowburn House – “John Hare’s Farm” (photo thanks to Freddie Hare)

The Directors of Bell Bros. only agreed to purchase Bowburn Farm, “on which it is proposed to sink the new pit”, according to the minutes of their meetings, on 7 November 1905 – less than nine months before boring began. At that time the farm contained 114.5 acres and the price agreed upon was £3,300. Actually, the conveyance was dated 27 October 1905 (a week earlier), when a £100 deposit had been paid. Even so, things moved pretty fast after the sale was complete. For, by the time the first sod was ceremonially cut on 23 July 1906, by the Islamicist and explorer **Gertrude Bell** (daughter of Bell Brothers’ chairman), a temporary pit heap and engine house had already been erected, as had brick kilns (to use the clay expected, with sand, in the first 25–26 fathoms), offices, workmen’s shops and an engine shed. These were built by bricklayers, joiners, fitters and labourers etc. employed by the company.

Bell Bros. bought the farm from **Matthew Graham Turnbull** (born 14 February 1853²), owner of the Cornhill flint glassworks at Southwick, who with his father Matthew (18 July 1825-22 November 1893), had themselves bought it on 21 March 1884, for £2,500 + interest. The vendor then was **John Bewick Quelch** (1841-1912), a graduate of Durham University and eldest son of **John George Quelch**. Quelch the elder had bought the farm in 1844 and moved there from Park Hill, which I'll come to in a moment. He and his family were living at Bowburn House at the time of the 1851 census but moved out a few years later. John Bewick Quelch, however, returned to Bowburn and presumably lived at Bowburn Farm from the time of his marriage in early 1870: he was the householder there at the time of the 1871 and 1881 censuses, described as a Farmer. After he sold up, in 1884, he and his family moved to North Carolina, USA.

Intriguingly [i.e. I still need to understand the details of this!], there are three 1881 mortgage documents in the Durham Records Office, dated (a) 8 February, (b) 29 March and (c) 9 May, all from [?] John Bewick Quelch, involving, respectively, (a) **Charles Barrett** of Crawley (formerly of Cockerton) & Samuel Rowland Chapman Ward, of Hill House, Neasham; (b) the National Provincial Bank of England Ltd., and (c) Edward Gleadare [Gleadale?] Marshall.³

Charles Barrett, who died in 1884, had been a major figure in the history of mining in the Quarrington area (and indeed elsewhere) and I'll return to him, though briefly, later. I'll mention now, though, that his sister (Elizabeth Barrett) married the first cousin of John George Quelch's mother. His name was George Lockwood, of whom more is also said below.

Samuel Rowland Chapman Ward was born just Samuel Rowland Chapman. Like his father, Henry Chapman, in Hurworth, and his mother's family in Derbyshire, he was a landed proprietor and farmer.

I suspect that **Edward Gleadare [Gleadale?] Marshall** was a relative of Chapman Ward, for Gleadale was the maiden name of his mother's brother Richard's wife. I do not yet know whether there was a connection between this Chapman family and, for instance, John Mellor Chapman, one of the directors of Chapman & Co.'s Newcastle bank (which was founded 1818 and converted into a Joint Stock Bank when the business was sold to the Newcastle, Shields and Sunderland Joint Stock Bank on 7 June 1836) and a founding director of the Great North of England Railway on 4 July 1836. If this is the connection, then it did occur to me that the Chapman involvement in Bowburn Farm simply arose from the GNER / Newcastle & Darlington railway line (once part of the original east coast main line but now known as the disused Leamside line) running through the estate.

However the Durham Record Office does have a covenant dated 8 January 1881⁴, from John Bewick Quelch of Bowburn, farmer, to Samuel Rowland Chapman Ward of Ne[a]sham Hill, esquire, to surrender a parcel of copyhold land in the township of Bondgate, Darlington. As this was at about the same time as the mortgage documents relating to Bowburn House, and as Bondgate was where John George Bewick's father-in-

² A great deal of the information in this paper is garnered from genealogical websites, especially ancestry.com, and from household censuses. Separate references are not given for all such details but can be supplied if required.

³ DRO Ref.: NCB I/D/84.20, 25 & 26

⁴ Durham Record Office ref.: D/XD 108/1/A/98

law lived and had property, it seems more likely that the Chapman link has no connection here with the railway. (On the other hand, Quelch senior did work for the North Eastern Railway... I just do not at present know...)

Atkinson

Anyway, before Quelch junior moved in, at the time of the 1861 census, Bowburn House was occupied by **John Job Atkinson** (abt 1822–1870). He was one of twelve H.M. Inspectors of Mines appointed by 1855 (to cover the whole country!) under the 1850 Mines Act. With him, together with four servants, were his wife, Elizabeth Ann, and their eight children – at least four of whom went on to become mining engineers. Two of them, John Boland and William Nicholas, became HM Inspectors of Mines, like their father. (By their time, however, there were rather more inspectors – 38 by 1900 and 83 by 1913 – and with greater powers than their father had had.) Another son, Alfred Ashley, became Chief Inspector of Coal Mines in New South Wales.

On 30 Sep 1858, Atkinson was the Government Inspector who was summoned when there was a fire at Page Bank colliery, which claimed 10 lives. His evidence to the inquest, that no one could be blamed, no doubt contributed to the jury's verdict of Accidental Death. (Page Bank was at that time one of the Byers Green collieries owned by **Ralph Ward Jackson** and Co., of West Hartlepool. Chief viewer of those collieries was **Richard Sheraton Johnson**. We'll come to these gentlemen later.)

Four years later, Atkinson was living at Bowburn when, on 24 Feb 1862, he wrote to the Secretary of State, Sir George Grey, to report on collieries that had only one shaft, using brattices to achieve their ventilation. (This followed the Hartley Pit disaster in Northumberland, on 16 Jan 1862, when 204 miners lost their lives. The engine beam had broken, fallen down the shaft and blocked the only means of escape from the mine.) The single-shaft collieries listed by Atkinson included Cassop Vale, Coxhoe and Tursdale.

In 1868, a miner sued his employer, **Ralph Henry Philipson**, the owner of Cassop Colliery, for two weeks' wages. He claimed he had lost these when the pit was laid in, on the instructions of Mr. Atkinson, Government inspector, for improvements to ventilation. The miner won the case.⁵

The Atkinson family had by then already moved to Chilton Moor. John Job was living there in 1864, when he was made an Honorary Member of the North of England Institute of Mining Engineers. While they were living at Bowburn, they had presumably rented Bowburn House from John George Quelch, John Bewick Quelch's father.

John George Quelch himself had acquired the house and farm on 14 May 1844, from the the sons of **Viscountess Elizabeth Barrington** (1768 or 1769–2 Mar 1841). She had inherited the property from her husband, the 5th Viscount Barrington, vicar of Sedgefield, who in turn had originally leased it from his uncle, Shute Barrington, the Bishop of Durham, on 15 September 1825, and after the latter's death had bought it from his successor (William Van Mildert), on 21 July 1828.

Quelch

A bit more needs to be said about **John George Quelch** (1810–1879), as he is quite important to Bowburn's history.

⁵ Manchester Guardian 28 January 1865

When he left Bowburn, he moved to Gateshead, leaving his son in charge of the farm. He took up post as Divisional Mineral Manager, Northern Division, for the North Eastern Railway Co. in 1854 and held that post till 1874. He died five years later, on 26 May 1879, at the age of 69. However it is his earlier career, as a colliery viewer and owner, which has more local significance for our purposes.

Quelch was born in Hartlepool on 16 March 1810, the only son of Lieutenant (later Commander) John Quelch, RN, and his wife, Hannah, née Lockwood. Her father was **George Lockwood** (1748-1789), fisherman & insurance broker of Whitby (where she was born), and her grandfather was **Abraham Lockwood** (1718-1775), a Halifax weaver and clothier. One of her uncles was **Joseph Lockwood** (1753-1810), an insurance broker and banker's "clerk". (That means rather more than it would mean today.) With his brothers Richard (1758-1806) and George, Joseph owned an insurance broking company and they were agents for the Neptune Association, selling fire, damage, and ship insurance for whaling ships. Joseph's son, another **George Lockwood** (1790-1864), also went into the insurance business and was presumably the George Lockwood (though it could have been his cousin, Richard's son) who was listed in the City Directory of Whitby, 1814, with J.M. Ayre, as operating the Neptune Insurance Association, having seventy vessels under their protection.

That son George (Hannah Quelch's first cousin) moved to Stockton to join Skinner's Bank, which had been founded in 1815 by William Skinner (also from Whitby) and partners (Wm Skinner jnr, Mr. Atty & William Holt). George was described as Banker's Clerk throughout the 1820s, on his children's baptismal records at Stockton. By 1834 he had moved to Tyneside (Lovaine Place – in North Shields?), having become the first manager of the North of England Joint Stock Banking Company (called, on his daughter Emily Charlotte's baptismal record, simply "The Joint Stock Bank") in 1832. (Win Stokes has told me that he was head-hunted for that post, to the chagrin of Sir William Chaytor – whose own bank joined with the Newcastle, Shields & Sunderland Union Joint Stock Bank in 1838.) George Lockwood married Elizabeth Barrett (1768-1828), sister of **Charles Barrett** (of Durham County Coal Co. fame). So John George Quelch was a cousin by marriage of Charles Barrett – and, indeed, of his brother-in-law and partner, **Ralph Darling**. (We shall come back to them and, especially, the Lockwood family, below.)

John George Quelch had four sisters, including one who never married but lived for a while in his household, **Lucy Hollingsworth Quelch** (abt 1816–1853). She was living with him and his family at Park Hill (possibly Clarence Villa – see below) at the time of the 1841 census and ten years later was in charge of another nearby house rented by him, Butterby House. His eldest son (John Bewick Quelch, previously referred to, but then only 9 years of age) was living with or visiting her there at the time of the 1851 census. She died two years later and was buried in St. Helen's churchyard, at Kelloe.

Because of his sister's middle name, I can't resist wondering whether Quelch may have been related to the Hollingsworth family that included the brothers Nathaniel John (vicar of Boldon) and George Lewis (partner in the Darlington bank of Richardson and Mowbray). The Rev. Hollingsworth's wife and one of their daughters were both called Lucy. Although he ended up as vicar of Boldon, and before that was vicar of Haltwhistle (according to Watson & White's directory in 1827 and Pigot's in 1828/29), he was previously curate of Sedgfield. (At least two of his children were christened at Sedgfield and one was buried there, an infant.) As such, he will have served under the Rector of Sedgfield, who from 1791-1829 was the 5th Viscount Barrington. It was Barrington who bought Bowburn House

from the Bishop of Durham, and his widow who sold it to John George Quelch. Is this just a coincidence?!

If there were a family relationship between the Quelch and Hollingsworth families – or even one of sufficient friendship to lead Commander John Quelch to name one of his daughters after Lucy (i.e. Mrs. Nathaniel John) Hollingsworth – then that would be another link, via [George Lewis Hollingsworth](#)'s brother-in-law, [Folliott Scott Stokes](#), with Charles Barrett and the companies of which he and Stokes were both directors – the Clarence Railway Co. and the Durham County Coal Co.

(Note: The only direct evidence I originally had that Nathaniel John and George Lewis Hollingsworth were brothers is an 1844 document that lists George Lewis Hollingsworth and Nathaniel Hollingsworth as two of the executors of James Franck. I guessed that this Nathaniel Hollingsworth was the son of Nathaniel John who was born in 1799 (died 1876) and was a Solicitor, of Finsbury, Middlesex. The third executor was Richard Bright, presumed to be James Franck's son-in-law. Win Stokes confirmed to me verbally, on 24 Jan 2009, that GLH and NJH were indeed brothers. She said that NJH officiated at GLH's wedding.)

A Hollingsworth-Quelch link would also connect all these people and the Wilkinson family, of Coxhoe Hall and Mount Oswald, who were major landowners in the Quarrington area and elsewhere in County Durham, and indeed the Spearman family. For the Rev. John Nathaniel's younger daughter, Mary Amelia, married [Calverley Bewicke](#) (1816–1876). Bewicke was a grandson of [Thomas Wilkinson](#), of Witton Castle and Coxhoe Hall, and his wife Hannah, née Spearman, was one of the four heiresses of [Robert Spearman](#) (1703–1761), of Oldacres, Sedgfield.

However I have yet to demonstrate such a Quelch-Hollingsworth link!

In 1840, John George Quelch married Mary, daughter of [William Bewick](#) (no relation, I believe, of the Calverley Bewickes), of Branson House, Bondgate, owner of an upholstery business in Blackwell Gate, Darlington. Her brother was William Bewick, a noted engraver and portrait painter. (William had recently retired through ill-health, after working in London and then Edinburgh, to Haughton House, at Haughton-le-Skerne. There is an account of his accomplishments in Whellan's 1894 Directory, pp. 466-469.)

Quelch was Clerk to the Durham County Coal Co., from its formation in 1836, and one-time viewer of Crowtrees and West Hetton collieries. He was described as "coal owner" in the settlement of his wife's estates before their wedding, in 1840. Although no occupational description was given to him in the 1841 census, when he was living at Park Hill, he was also described as Coal Owner in the baptismal records of his first three sons, in 1841, 1842 and 1844.

In July 1842, he was described (I think in Reid's mining directory) as Viewer of Crowtrees and West Hetton collieries. When West Hetton Colliery was advertised for sale in October 1846 (Manchester Guardian 31 October 1846), enquiries could be made to John G. Quelch, at the colliery, where he was presumably the Viewer, or to Mr. [\[Ralph Park\] Philipson](#), the Newcastle solicitor. But I do not at present know whether Quelch was also one of the co-owners.

In 1845, 1847 and 1849, in the baptismal records of his two daughters and his fourth son, he was described as Gentleman. In the [1851](#) census, he was described as Farmer,

farming 310 acres, employing 6 labourers. And, in 1855, the first edition of Whelan's "Durham Book" described him as Yeoman.

In 1861, by which time he had moved to Gateshead, the census described Quelch as a "Land Owner and Railway Traffic Manager". It seems he gave up his coal-owning career about 1845, and his mining career not long afterwards.

However he went down in history, as far as Bowburn is concerned, for being responsible for the first Bowburn Colliery.

A fuller account of Quelch's part is told elsewhere on this website, in "Three Bowburn Collieries" and the rest of the section on "Early coal mining in the area". Suffice it to say here that he and his cousin, Charles Barrett, were behind an unsuccessful attempt, in 1840, to work a coal mine in the area in Bowburn, now bordered by Surtees Avenue, Montaigne Drive, Wolsey Close and Burn Street, which was most recently a depot owned by Mabey Hire. The unproductive shaft was re-opened in 1906, to be part of the 20th century Bowburn Colliery sunk by Bell Brothers Ltd.. In the meantime, another "Bowburn Colliery" had operated in the 1850s and '60s, near Park Hill.

Both the unsuccessful and the moderately successful 19th century Bowburn Collieries were sunk to mine coal in the West Hetton Royalty – as was West Hetton Colliery, which was at the very southern border of Quarrington, near Coxhoe Beck (East of Four Mile Bridge).

Charles Barrett was a leading entrepreneur in the Durham County Coal Company (DCCC), a Joint Stock company that at one time owned Coxhoe Colliery (aka "Joint Stocks Colliery"), while he and other partners separately owned other collieries in the area – not just Bowburn and West Hetton, but also Crowtrees and Heugh Hall Collieries.

John George Quelch was employed as DCCC's clerk when it was established in 1836. He was presumably still acting as its agent ten years later, when its Coxhoe and Quarrington collieries were being sold: "Further particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. Philipson, solicitor, Newcastle-on-Tyne, who is authorised to treat for the sale of the properties; or to Mr. John G. Quelch, at the West Hetton Colliery, Coxhoe, near Durham. – October 29, 1846."

However, as we have seen, he was by that time on the point of leaving the coal mining industry. He bought Bowburn House farm in 1844; by 1845 he had started calling himself "Gentleman", rather than "Coal Owner", and in the 1851 census he was described as the Farmer at Bowburn House farm.

Other Bowburn House occupants

While John Bewick Quelch (John George's son) was living at Bowburn House, he was, at the time of the 1871 census, being visited by **Watson Hunter** and his wife, Annie. Hunter was described as a Bank Accountant and in later censuses was described as a Coal Exporter and then a Ship Broker. I did wonder whether he might have been related to the Anthony Hunter whose daughters married Charles Barrett and Ralph Darling. However he was born in Hartlepool and his father was from Bishopwearmouth. I could find no obvious connection with the Quelches' Barrett relations – the Hunters of Stockton. Then I wondered whether, perhaps, John Bewick Quelch (always described as a Farmer in the censuses) might himself have had interests in the coal trade, taking after his father. However I finally realised that his wife, Maria, was their visitor Annie Hunter's sister. (Their father, Edward Peele, was a Chorister at Durham Cathedral.) So there was probably no

direct connection between this Hunter family and the sisters who married Charles Barrett and Ralph Darling. Occupationally, John Bewick Quelch may indeed have always been just a farmer.

Certainly, Richard Lee, the occupant of "Blue House" (as it was then) in 1841, and then Friend Shield, the occupant of "Bowburn Farm" in 1891 and of "Bowburn House" in 1901, were just farmers. Strangely, there appears to be no farmer recorded in the 1861 census who might have been farming Bowburn Farm when John Job Atkinson (the Mines Inspector) was living there. It is possible, of course, that his landlord (at that time still John George Quelch) was the employer of those who worked the farm, and was technically "the farmer" – even though he had by then moved to Gateshead to work for the N.E.R.. After all, he presumably devoted less than his full-time attention to the farming aspects of his Bowburn estate, even when he was living there!

Bowburn House continued to be the farm house for Bowburn farm after Bell Bros. acquired it in 1905, right through till the 1960s. Bowburn Colliery closed in 1967. The building was demolished in about 1978.

2. Park Hill

Another impressive 19th century farm house in Quarrington was Park Hill farm house. This was the only other large house in the area to have solid stone walls (not rubble), according to its last owner, Mr. Bob Oxley. It had 8 bedrooms, a 24ft-by-36ft sitting room and a 1/4"-thick Westland slate roof. It had central heating, with a coal-fired boiler (again, according to Mr. Oxley) even in 1856. (See below, however, about when it was built.) It was demolished in about 1967, after failing to survive nearby excavations to create the A1 motorway southbound slip road.

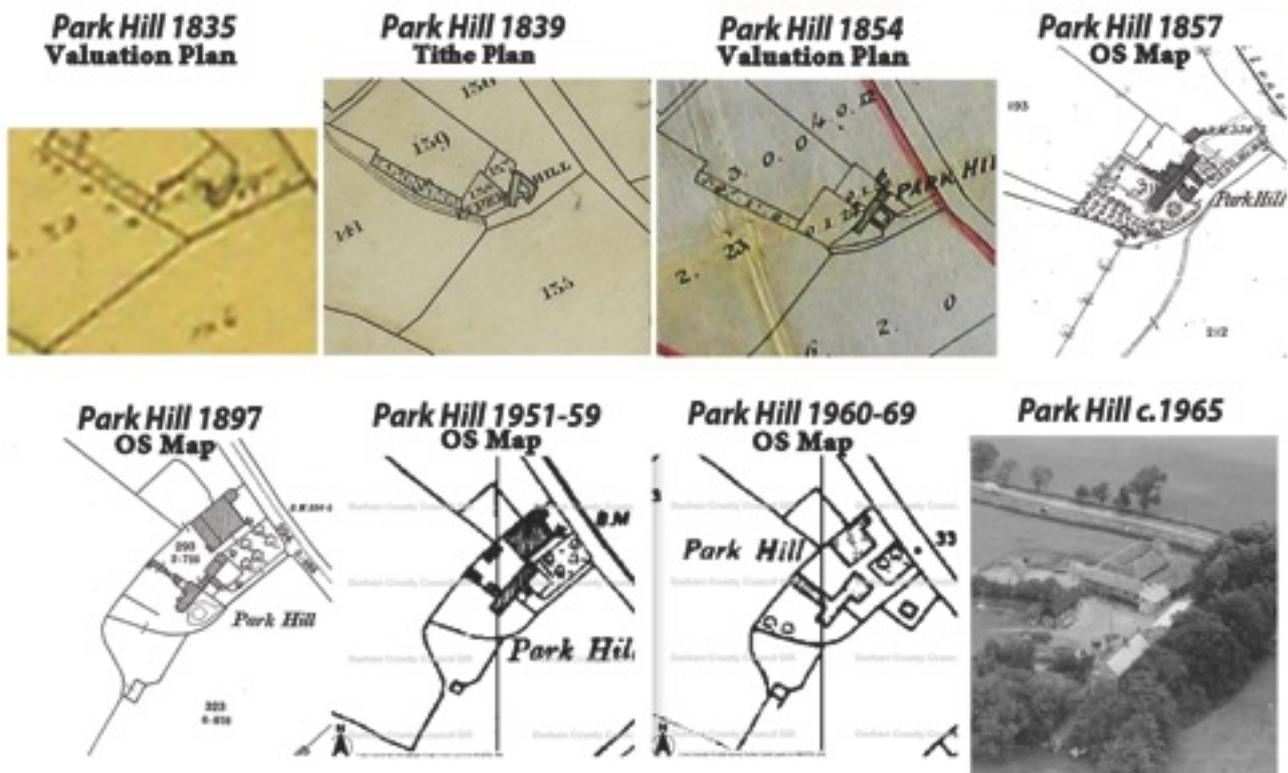
In the 1841 census, the address of **John George Quelch** was given as "Park Hill House". His occupation was not given – although, as we have seen above, he was elsewhere described as Coal Owner in that year. Ten years later, he had moved to Bowburn House and was described in the 1851 census as "Farmer of 310 acres employing 6 labourers". I originally supposed that he was living at Park Hill farm in 1841 and must have combined farming with his colliery career. I was wrong.

For, in addition to the Quelch household at Park Hill in 1841, there was that of **John Reed**, farmer. Moreover it was Reed who was farming Park Hill farm at the time of the 1839 tithe apportionment and in the 1851 census he was again listed at Park Hill as Farmer. In that year, too, there was another well-to-do households listed at Park Hill, that of **Charles A. Baker**, Colliery Agent.

So there must have been TWO prominent families, and therefore TWO large houses, at Park Hill in both 1841 and 1851: that of John Reed in both years, in Park Hill farm house, and those of J. G. Quelch in 1841 and C. A. Baker in 1851, in the other. It is reasonable to assume that the Bakers succeeded the Quelches, in living in the same, presumably large, house, wherever that was. But it is still not at all clear where that was.

There seem to be two possibilities. One is that it was also in the group of buildings at Park Hill farm, such as an earlier farm house and a newer one. The other is that it was at the southern end of the farm's estate.

Park Hill farm house's last occupant, Bob Oxley, told me the impressive 19th century farm house was built in 1856 for James Fowler, of whom more is said below. However Fowler did not actually acquire the farm till 1870, so it seems that either Mr. Oxley's date was incorrect or that the new big house preceded Fowler. Whichever is correct, however, more important for this particular tale is whether the new house replaced the old on, or was built alongside it, making it possible for two wealthier families to have lived on the farmstead... and, if so, when.



Successive maps of the area offer some evidence. The 1839 tithe map (the nearest, in date, to the 1841 census) shows only one large house in the farmstead. Despite the imperfections of that map (including its labelling of Park Hill farm house as “Piper Hill”!), this evidence is reinforced by a plan & valuation map of 1835, which showed a similar building footprint. Another valuation map, dated 1854, appears to show a slightly larger building, though much of it occupies the same footprint, and the first Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1857, shows something similar – possibly a little larger again. The second edition OS map, surveyed in 1897, shows an entirely separate large building and both were still in place in the 1960s, before the motorway wrought its changes.

It seems to me that Mr. Fowler was probably responsible for the entirely new large building. This was remembered by Mr. Oxley as three sizable farm workers’ cottages, built of rubble, not solid stone. (It was actually rented to miners, in his lifetime, as the Oxley family had enough of its own members to work the farm.) One wall of this building still survives, as one side of a barn.

The older farm house may have been replaced by Mr. Fowler, perhaps at the same time. Or this may have been done in about 1856 (the date given by Mr. Oxley) by its earlier “owner”⁶, John Reed. What does not appear likely, however, is that there were two houses here, with two well-to-do households. Although it is just possible that there were two houses attached to one other, that does not seem likely, with one of them having eight bedrooms.

⁶ The word “owner” is in inverted commas because the land was ultimately still owned by the Church.
 • In the 1839 tithe apportionment, John Reed was listed as the “landholder” of Park Hill farm and his rent in lieu of tithes was payable to Sherburn Hospital & their lessee (of tithes), John Hunter Mowbray. Mowbray was a Druggist & Grocer, of Darlington.
 • A 1854 valuation map describes Reed as the “owner” of the farm, while the Lease was from the Lord Bishop of Durham to Mr William Turnbull, for 3 lives. Reed was presumably Turnbull’s tenant.

So, the Quelch household, in 1841, and the Baker household, in 1851, both living at “Park Hill” were perhaps elsewhere on the farm’s estate, or former estate. They were perhaps at what was later called Clarence Villa.

John Reed was the farmer at Park Hill in 1841, 1851 and 1861, but by 1871 had moved to Yorkshire. He had leased the farm from the church but the next occupant was its owner – or, at least, the son of the next owner. It was sold by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, on 20 May 1870, to Ald. **James Fowler**, of Crook Hall, Durham City, grocer of 99, Claypath, and five times Mayor of Durham. For the next quarter of a century, it was occupied and farmed by his younger son, also called James. (He was living there in 1871, 1881 and 1891.) Together with his brother and two sisters, as co-heirs, James Fowler jnr sold Park Hill on 24 November 1894 (not long after their father’s death) and moved to Almoner Villa, in Durham – later called Byland Lodge and for many years the District Council’s offices. By 1901, the farm and its big house had been sold once again, to John Oxley, the grandfather of its final occupant. (His grandson, Bob Oxley, still lives there, in a bungalow.) John Oxley was still at Park Hill in 1911, with his family. He died the next year, after which it was farmed by his son, Bob Oxley snr.

Reed

John Reed farmed Park Hill between at least 1839 and 1861. In the latter year, he was the census Enumerator for Quarrington Township, when he described himself as Yeoman. He was the son of George Thompson Reed, a farmer and land owner, originally from West Boldon, and was related to a number of other farmers in the area: his younger brothers George, Thomas and William all farmed at Cassop. (Surtees reported Reeds in Cassop in the 17th century but, if there is a direct link to these, I have yet to find it.) He moved to Yorkshire when or before James Fowler bought Park Hill in 1870.

His eldest son, also John Reed (1835-c.1900), became a shipping clerk in West Hartlepool while his father was still at Park Hill. By 1871 he had moved to Middlesbrough and married, and was in that year’s census described as Commercial Clerk. But he had presumably by then moved into the iron industry (possibly linked with his brother-in-law, Edward Robson?) He was “Commercial Manager to an Iron Co.” in 1881 and “Secretary of Ltd Iron Co.” in 1891. (I do not yet know with which company.) He was widowed early, with three children, and in 1881 his parents were living with him, at Thorne, near Doncaster, in Yorkshire. From there he moved to Doncaster and probably died there before 1901.

Robson

Although John Reed was not himself involved in the coal industry, to my knowledge, his daughter Elizabeth Ann married **Edward Robson**. Robson and his wife were living in, or visiting, the Reed household at the time of the 1861 census, when he was described as Colliery Agent. It was after this that he bought Cassop colliery (probably either from **Ralph Park Philipson**, the Newcastle solicitor, or his son, Ralph Henry), which he did after that colliery first closed in 1868. (Philipson & co. had purchased the Cassop pits in 1852.) Robson also, I believe, owned Tyne Main colliery, and Victoria colliery at Witton-le-Wear.

As far as I can find, Edward Robson had no connection with **John Robson** (1808-1856), the colliery viewer and co-owner, with Ralph Ward Jackons, of several collieries in the area, on behalf of the Hartlepool West Harbour & Dock Company, in the 1850s. That John Robson also co-owned, with his brother Mathew, Andrew White, John Maud Ogden and Thomas Panton, the nearby Whitwell colliery. (It seems entirely coincidental (from a family name point of view) that Edward Robson was also one of the lessees of a way-leave

across land at Whitwell, past Whitwell colliery, to join his Cassop collieries with the North Eastern Railway to the north, in 1874 [DCRO: Ref No. D/Sh.H 936].)

Edward Robson (abt 1831-1899), the son of a cabinet maker, also called Edward, was born in Darlington and was living there at the time of the 1841 & 1851 censuses. Though Edward snr might conceivably have been related to the above John Robson, it seems unlikely. I do not yet know his place of birth, but his sister Isabella was born in Yorkshire (at Engholme?). John Robson, on the other hand, was born at Birtley, Chester-le-Street, and his father, also John Robson (abt 1778-1856), was born in Washington. All his family were born in the Chester-le-Street and Houghton areas.

Nor have I found any connection between the Edward Robsons (snr & jnr) and the Quaker Robson family, of Darlington, that was related to the Pease and Backhouse families. (Despite the word association with Whitwell colliery, the fact that one of that family was called Edward Whitwell Robson – who was only about 13 years our Edward’s junior – is entirely coincidental. That name derived from another Quaker family, the Whitwells, of Kendal, who married earlier into the Pease family.)

“Our” Edward Robson moved to Yorkshire in the 1860s, where he went into partnership with **Arthur Henry Newcomen** and James Rutherford, to exploit the ironstone under the Kirkleatham Estate, owned by the Newcomen family. His father-in-law, the Park Hill farmer, John Reed, went to live at Dromonby House, Kirby, near Stokesley, Yorkshire, c.1870. He was there, aged 64, for the 1871 census and Edward Robson and his family appear to have moved with him, as they were also there for that year’s census. Robson subsequently moved to The Old Hall West, Kirkleatham, where he and his family were living in 1881, and later to St. Vincent House, St. Vincent Terrace, Coatham, Yorks.

Robson’s partner, Arthur Henry Newcomen, by the way, of Kirkleatham Hall, was the grandson of **Henry Vansittart**, one of the original shareholders of the Clarence Railway Co. and Director and first Chairman of the [Old] Hartlepool Dock & Railway Co. This is not the place to recount the history of the Vansittart family. Important though it may have been to Quarrington, by virtue of the operations of these two companies, none of them lived here! Nor have I any evidence to suggest that Edward Robson had any personal connection with Henry Vansittart – who died (in 1848) when Edward was only 17 years old – or with the Clarence Railway Co. Nor will he have had anything to do with the Hartlepool Dock & Railway Co. For, though his Cassop Colliery originally used that company’s line through Thornley to Old Hartlepool, it was acquired by George Hudson in 1848 (and in due course became part of the NER), while Robson only acquired the colliery in about 1872.

Turnbull

John Reed did not himself lease Park Hill farm from the Church. He rented it from the Bishop’s lessee, **William Turnbull**.

Turnbull was listed as the assignee AND OCCUPANT of Park Hill farm in a Plan and Valuation of the estate dated 4 February 1835. The lease was still then in the name of Isaac Hopper but it was renewed in Turnbull’s name in 1854.⁷ The farm was then shown as “owned” by John Reed – though he was clearly renting it from Turnbull.

⁷ The earlier plan and valuation, dated 4 February 1835, followed the death of the first life, Robert Hopper Williamson. The second life, Sir Thomas John Clavering, died in 1853 and a further plan and valuation was compiled on 21 February 1854, presumably for a further renewal of the lease
Refs.: University of Durham, CCB MN/3/321789/3 [1935] and CCB MN/3/321789/1 [1854]

Because Turnbull was shown on the 1835 valuation plan as occupying the farm, I supposed at first, wrongly, that he actually lived there. I guessed that this William Turnbull might be the one who was the son of a Tanfield farmer, who lived in Quality Row, Shincliffe, before moving to live at Four Mile Bridge, in the early 1850s. That William Turnbull was described in the 1841 and 1851 censuses, at Shincliffe, as “Coal Inspector” and then “Inspector (Coal Mines)”. In 1861, at Four Mile Bridge, he was described as “Heap Keeper”. By 1871, he and his wife had moved on to Thornley. He was now aged 72 but still described as “Inspector [CmS??]”. He probably died about February 1879.

However a letter dated 16 February 1835, from R.A. Douglas Gresley (the Bishop’s agent), rejecting an appeal against the size of the fine to be paid on the renewal of the lease, was addressed to William Turnbull, HATTER, of Newcastle.⁸ That William Turnbull was listed in White’s 1827 Directory (p.87) as “Turnbull Wm., hatter, 1, Tyne Bridge end; h[ome] 81, Side”, in Newcastle.⁹

I have not yet found this Newcastle William Turnbull in any censuses – though there was one who was a publican in High Bridge, Newcastle, in 1841. But, even so, it seems unlikely that the William Turnbull who leased Park Hill farm from the Bishop ever lived in it – in that year, or subsequently.

There was also a William Turnbull, Coal Fitter, living in Stockton in 1836, who looked tempting. But again I can find no connection. (He was married to Ann Turnbull – according to the the baptismal record of his 2nd son, also William. I have not found him subsequently – though there was a William & Ann Turnbull, he being a Blacksmith, with a son William born abt 1834, living at Shadforth in 1851.)

Nor, as yet, have I found any connections between William Turnbull, the Newcastle hatter who leased the Park Hill estate from the Bishop; William Turnbull, the coal inspector who at one time lived on part of it, and the Matthew Turnbolls, the Sunderland glass makers who later bought Bowburn farm. There probably wasn’t one.

Nevertheless, even if he was a different William Turnbull to the one-time leaseholder of Park Hill farm, the one who was a “Coal Inspector”, living at “Four Mile Bridge” in 1861 may also be relevant in our search for the other big house at Park Hill. Perhaps he, and before him Charles A. Baker, of “Park Hill” in 1851, and before that John George Quelch, of “Park Hill House” in 1841, all lived in the same house. Perhaps that house was what was later called Clarence Villa.

Before I look further at that possibility, there is one more family to look at in connection with Park Hill farm.

Hopper

The **Isaac Hopper** who leased Park Hill farm from the Bishop before it was acquired by William Turnbull in 1835 was a Quaker. He also leased the nearby Quarrington Grange Farm but he actually farmed at Broom Hill Farm, near TurSDale. He had moved to Norton, near Stockton, before the 1841 census and he died there in 1845.

⁸ The letter was reproduced in a footnote in Wm. Fordyce (1859) “The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham...”.

⁹ Pigot and Co.’s “National Commercial Directory for 1828-9” also listed him at 1, Tyne Bridge End.

His son, **John Mason Hopper**, who inherited his estates, derived his middle name from his mother, Mary. She was a sister of **Christopher Mason**, the noted agricultural improver, of Chilton: one-time partner in Mowbray & co.'s Darlington & Durham Bank (till 1813), colliery owner and railway investor... He was one of the original shareholders in the Clarence Railway Co., in 1828, and is perhaps unfairly remembered mostly for the fact that he underwrote a Clarence Railway Co. exchequer loan of £11,000, but was found not to have been able to back that loan, when he died in 1836.

So, though neither Isaac Hopper nor his son, John Mason Hopper, ever lived at Park Hill (or Quarrington), they too provide another intriguing link with Quarrington's collieries and the Clarence Railway Company that recognized their importance.

3. Clarence Villa

A fuller account of the history of The Clarence Villa can be found on this website in the section on "Pubs and clubs". That history since the 1871 census is relatively straightforward.

In 1871 Clarence Villa was given as the address of Ralph Carnaby, Brick Manufacturer. He had been described in 1858 as "Shipowner, Manufacturer of Fire Clay Goods and Bricks, Common Brick and Tile Manufacturer, and General Merchant, and late of the same place Bookkeeper, in the employment of the West Hetton Coal Company". More is said about him in the "Pubs and clubs" section.

By 1879, the house had become an inn, called the Clarence Villa (though it was listed in that year's Kelly's Directory as "Clarence Village [sic] hotel"), and has remained an inn and/or a pub ever since. Again, there is a more detailed account, including a list of successive landlords, under "Pubs and clubs".

It is the period before 1871 that is considerably less certain. What follows here is the suggestion that it was built in the late 1830s, probably by a colliery owner, and housed at least two, possibly three, families whose head of household was important in the local coal mining industry.

On the above-mentioned 1835 evaluation plan, surveyed for renewing the lease of Park Hill farm to Isaac Hopper, there was no building where Clarence Villa now stands. Though what is still, today, a small triangular field just south of there was shown as assigned to Joseph Lammas, the 5.775 acres (5a 2r 11p) field north of there was part of the farm.



Extract from the 1839 Tithe Map

Four years later, the tithe plan showed a building in a one-acre plot here, with 5.775 acres (4a 2r 11p) field to its north. The tithe apportionment described it as Paddock and House and said it was “owned” and occupied by **Nicholas Wood**. It is highly unlikely that this noted mining engineer really lived there himself. However it is entirely plausible that it would have been used to house some one engaged by him or the Hetton Coal Company, in which he was a partner, and which is believed to have been responsible for sinking or developing both Clarence Hetton and West Hetton collieries.¹⁰

That description would fit both **John George Quelch**, whose address was given as “Park Hill House” in the 1841 census. It is also likely to have fitted Charles A. Baker, whose address was given as “Park Hill” in 1851. It may possibly apply to **William Turner**, who lived at “Four Mile Bridge” in 1861.



Extract from 1st Ordnance Survey Map, 1857

The obvious problem with this theory is that, on the 1st Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1857, Clarence Villa is clearly labelled with that name. So, if William Turner was living there, why was that not given as his address? The enumerator that year was John Reed, the farmer at Park Hill. So could he not have been aware of the name, however new, of

¹⁰ In 1899, when Park Hill farm was bought by John Oxley, the farm’s conveyance plan still showed N. Wood as the owner [or lessee?] of land to the south – i.e. that containing Clarence Villa. This N. Wood was probably Nicholas Wood jnr., though he too had by then died (in 1892).

this large house near the southern border of his farm? On the other hand, he listed no one with that address. The only addresses he listed with “Clarence” in their names were those of three households living at “Clarence Cottage” – those of Richard Wilkinson, Coachman; David Forest, Gardener, and Robert Heron, Blacksmith. These were presumably living in the row of cottages shown on the 1857 map as just north of Clarence Villa (on the same one-acre site). Perhaps the big house itself was unoccupied. Perhaps Turner was living, not here, but in one of the houses near the bridge. However the enumerator has not indicated any unoccupied houses in this area, though he did show five elsewhere in the township.¹¹ But, then again, the OS map appears to show four, not three, Clarence Cottages; so presumably one of these was not occupied. Yet that is not shown in John Reed’s enumeration. Perhaps he missed some out.

The evidence, in short, is inconclusive. It is still extremely tempting, however, to believe that John George Quelch and Charles Baker lived at Clarence Villa, and also, quite possibly, William Turner.

Much has been said already, above, about Quelch, and also a little about Turner. So, finally, a few words about Baker.

Baker

Charles Andrew Baker (1817-1886) was living at “Park Hill” in 1851, with his wife Johanna (née Kidd) and their daughters Margaret and Mary Ann. He was described in that year’s census as Colliery Agent and it is reasonable to assume that he was concerned with one or more of the nearby collieries, Moreover his involvement is highly likely to have been associated with their ownership by Ralph Ward Jackson and co.. That judgement is made, not least, because he moved before 1861 to Stranton, West Hartlepool, and lived there till he died in 1886. He left a personal estate of £12,672 8s. 10d (over £700,000 in today’s money), which does not sound like the amount that would have been left by anyone who was a minor tenant during his stay at Park Hill.

I did wonder when I first saw Charles Baker’s name whether he was connected with the Bakers of Ellemore Hall, and therefore with Hetton Colliery via his family, making that the link with Nicholas Wood – who, as we have seen, leased (and presumably had built) Clarence Villa. However he was actually the son of a sail-cloth weaver, of Stockton.

In the 1841 census (in Stockton) and the 1861 census (in West Hartlepool), Baker was described as Accountant. Then in 1871 (back in West Hartlepool) he was described as Secretary, Railway, and in 1881 as Railway Local Secretary. When his will was proved, in 1886, he was described as Local Secretary to the North-Eastern Railway Company.

It seems highly likely that, in 1845 (i.e. before he lived at Park Hill and was described in the 1851 census as Colliery Agent), he was the Mr. Baker who was then the Secretary of **George Hudson**’s York and North Midland Railway Company, referred to by Tomlinson¹². (Note, however, that that gentleman’s first name began with an “R”, according to Robinson’s Railway Directory 1841.)

¹¹ Reed indicated one uninhabited house at Bowburn (probably at what is now called “The Leazes”, near the post office), three at Heugh Hall Row (at what is now called Old Quarrington), and one at “Quarrington” (i.e. elsewhere in Old Quarrington).

¹² William Weaver Tomlinson (1914/1967), “The North Eastern Railway – Its Rise and Development”, London: David & Charles, page 458.

4. West Hetton Lodge

Another large 19th century house in Quarrington was West Hetton Lodge. This was never a farm house and seems always to have been linked to local collieries. It was presumably built during the 1830s, when the nearby West Hetton colliery was sunk. To judge by successive OS maps, the building that was demolished in about 1961 was probably the same one as that occupied at the time of the 1841 census by **William Lishman** and his household. It was a two storey stone building, with an impressive colonnade facing on to the lane that is today a bridle way, known as “Ramsay’s Drive”. (I am grateful to Robin Walton, author of “The History of Coxhoe” (1986), for his drawing of the building, which is the only picture I have ever seen of it.



Lishman

“**William Lishman**” is another famous name in the history of Durham coal mining, though it belonged to more than one person! The one who was householder at West Hetton Lodge in 1841 (c.1796–1850) was the son of Thomas Lishman, and was presumably born, like his older and younger brothers, Thomas and Matthew, in Houghton-le-Spring or Washington. Thomas snr, aged 85, was living with William at the time of the 1841 census.

William Lishman was described in that census as a Colliery Viewer. (I have an unconfirmed note that, at 15 July 1842, William Lishman was the viewer for the original [i.e. unsuccessful] Bowburn and West Hetton Colliery and that John G. Quelch was viewer of Crowtrees and Heugh Hall Collieries. [This note is from Paul Dawe but I do not know his source.]) Though Lishman MAY have been employed previously by Nicholas Wood and partners, I believe that by 1841 he must have been in the employ of either the Durham County Coal Company or the elusive partnership of “Barrett, Quelch & Co.” We have already noted that John George Quelch was in 1841 living nearby at “Park Hill House” – probably Clarence Villa. He [JGQ] was certainly employed by the Durham County Coal Co.

The census that year was taken on Sunday 6 June and there may be clues in Lishman’s household that they had already sold up. I’ll come to that in a moment. Meanwhile William was presumably the William Lishman of Coxhoe, colliery viewer, who (with George Rippon of Tynemouth, Thomas Fox of Beaminster, Dorset, and Christopher Akenhead Wawn of

South Shields) leased coalmines in Cornforth from **Henry Blanshard** of Great Ormond Street, Middlesex, esq., on 30 October 1846. (DRO: Ref No. D/X 691/7).

Lishman must have moved soon after that, however, to Netherton Colliery, near Morpeth. There he was presumably the viewer but then died, before the 1851 census. For his widow was at that time living in the Viewer's House there, with three of their four children. Her son William, aged 20, was described as Colliery Agent. However, as she was the head of household, I assume that they lived in this house by virtue of her late husband's position prior to his recent death.

William Lishman jnr (abt 1831-1899) went on to become one of the major mining engineers of the 19th century, being Agent for the Earl of Durham for thirty-four years. He lived much of that time at Bunker Hill, Newbottle, and then finally at Thornhill Park, Sunderland, before dying in 1899.

Meanwhile, back at West Hetton, there were nine households (containing 39 persons) in the 1841 census with an address listed as "West Hetton Pit", in Quarrington, whose location is not known with certainty. They may indeed have been right next to the colliery as there is a structure there on the 1857 Ordnance Survey map which may have been housing. (The main settlement associated with West Hetton colliery was at the bottom end of Coxhoe, in the adjoining township.) They were clearly the colliery officials' houses. For four of the heads of household in this group were Enginemens, one was the Banksman, one was a Blacksmith, two had no description, and the other was the Colliery Overman. This last was **Thomas Lishman**, brother of William snr. No less than three of Thomas's four sons (Thomas, William and John) went on to become mining engineers. This William, too, achieved some considerable renown, like his namesake cousin. He lived for many years at Holly House, Witton-le-Wear, and died in 1904.

Getting back to the William Lishman who was living at West Hetton Lodge in 1841, I said that some members of his household may give a clue to the identity of his employer. For also living there were George Lockwood (aged 20), Mountjoy Pearse (20) and Bedford Lockwood (15), all three described as Clerks.

Pearse & Lockwood

Mountjoy Pearse, was "a clerk of the West Hetton colliery and Crowtrees colliery" when he was witness no. 94 before the Employment of Children Commission in 1841-42. (He gave evidence, e.g., about wage levels and church attendance.)

[If he was clerk of those two collieries, while John George Quelch was the viewer of Crowtrees and Heugh Hall and William Lishman was viewer of West Hetton [and the failing Bowburn], I wonder whether George Lockwood was clerk of Heugh Hall colliery, or were they both clerks for all three? Were all three already then owned by the Durham County Coal Co.??]

George and Bedford Lockwood were brothers, sons of **George Lockwood snr**, the Bank Clerk mentioned earlier (he was the cousin of John George Quelch's mother), and his wife Elizabeth, sister of Charles Barrett. The parents were by then living in Dorset and young Bedford must have returned to their home soon after the census, for he died there a few days afterwards. George jnr, however, stayed on in Durham and became first a Coal Fitter and then a shipbuilder. In 1851, he was one of 19 Coal Fitters listed in Ward's Directory, as "Lockwood George, jun., West Hartlepool; r[esidence] Seaton". On 15 Jan 1852, H.M. Customs and Excise (Port of Hartlepool) registered the ship "Fortitude" (built in Aberdeen

in 1839), listing the subscribing owners as Mountjoy Pearse of West Hartlepool, Durham, coal fitter and George Lockwood of West Hartlepool, Durham, coal fitter. In 1855, Slater's Directory (p.44) listed Geo. Lockwood, jnr, Exchange buildings, West Hartlepool, as the Coal Fitting Office, Agent and Exporter for West Hartlepool, West Hetton, South Kelloe, &c. In Kelly's Directory 1858, Lockwood was listed as a Coal Fitter: "Lockwood G. jun. Commercial terrace, West Hartlepool"

George had married, on 6 January 1847, Lucretia Share, the daughter of a Customs officer. (In the 1851 census, her father, **Thomas Taskes Share**, aged 70 and living in Tynemouth, was described as Chief Officer, Coast Guard Superintendent. Though born near Penzance, in Cornwall, he had been posted to various parts of the country during his career but ended it in charge of the district between Berwick and Souter Point, south of the Tyne, for some 22 years.)

I specifically mention Lucretia's father's career because other "Revenue Men" crop up in families linked with Quarrington's collieries. Firstly, Win Stokes pointed out to me that **Ralph Darling**'s father was probably also a Customs Officer, or Revenue Man, and I have confirmed that since. Ralph Darling was a one-time partner of Charles Barrett, George Lockwood's uncle. He married Barrett's sister-in-law, Mary Hunter. Darling's father, Ralph Darling snr, was born in Durham but lived his last years at Gravesend. Although at the time of his children's births, in Durham City, he was a [leather] currier (incidentally, the same occupation as that of Anthony Hunter, of Stockton, the father-in-law of Ralph jnr and of Charles Barrett), in the 1851 census, aged 73, he was described there as Retired Revenue Officer. In 1855, he was listed in Kelly's Directory as "Darling[,] Ralph, esq. 25 Prospect place", Gravesend.

(Incidentally, Darling's son, **Charles Barrett Darling** [abt 1840-1878], married the daughter of a Trinity Pilot – William Freeman [born about 1815 in Suffolk]. I don't know if that also suggests a connection with Revenue Men. It is also not improbable that these Darlings were related to the lighthouse keeping dynasty of Northumberland, including the family of the rescue heroine, Grace Darling.)

Secondly, **Mountjoy Pearse**, of whom I'll say more in a moment, married twice. His second wife was Frances Copland Trevan, daughter of a Cornish surgeon and apothecary (Frederick Trevan) whose brother Isaac (c.1816-1883), of Liskeard, Cornwall, was described in censuses as Principal Coast Officer of Customs (in 1851) and Superannuated or Retired Controller of Customs (1861, 1871 & 1881). [Her brother Frederick Adolphus Trevan (c.1856-1916) married a daughter of George & Lucretia Lockwood, Emily Catherine (1855-1924).]

George & Lucretia Lockwood had eleven children. Another of them, Clara Share Lockwood (1853–1933), married **Arthur John Dorman** (1848–1931), who in 1876 went into partnership with Albert De Land Long to form the Dorman Long company – which later became one of Britain's largest steel producers. When it took over Bell Brothers, it became the owners of the 20th century Bowburn Colliery – though admittedly that was not its only claim to fame! Dorman was made a Baronet in 1923 and died in 1931.

One of George & Lucretia's sons, another **George Lockwood [III]** (1850–1909), was described in the 1881 census as Iron Founder, employing 8 men and 2 boys. He was living at that time in Stockton, with his wife, Louisa (28), and one servant. I do not as yet know whether there was any business relationship between him and his brother-in-law, Arthur Dorman.

Another of the Lockwood children, **Charles Barrett Lockwood** (1856–1914) became a noted surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in London. He developed a pioneering approach for femoral hernia operations, was Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons and President of the Anatomical Society, the Harvian Society and the Medical Society of London. I'll come back to him in a moment.

I shall also return later to another of his sisters, **Elizabeth Barrett Lockwood** (1852-1925). She married **George Johnson** (1851-1874), a nephew of **Richard Sheraton Johnson** and, by marriage, of **Thomas Michelson Reay**.

Meanwhile **Mountjoy Pearse** also became a coal fitter and then ship owner. Slater's 1855 Directory (p.44) listed M. Pearse & Co., Exchange buildings, West Hartlepool, as the Coal Fitting Office, Agent and Exporter for Whitworth West End, Whitworth Hartley, Whitworth Coke and West Durham Coke. (Kelly's 1858 Directory listed M. Pearse & Co., of Commercial terrace, West Hartlepool as fitters for Whitworth Park Colliery [p.611].)

Four years earlier, on 16 May 1851, H.M. Customs and Excise (Port of Hartlepool) had registered the ship "Fortitude" (built in Portland, New Brunswick in 1832), listing the subscribing owner as Mountjoy Pearse of West Hartlepool, Durham, merchant.

On 20 June 1850, Mountjoy had married George Lockwood's sister Anne (Charles Barrett's niece), though she died only four years later, in 1854, and they had no surviving children.

The brothers-in-law went into partnership not just in ship-owning but in ship-building. The very first iron ships built in Stockton were built, in 1853, by Messrs. Mountjoy Pearse & George Lockwood. Pearse went to live in Seaton Carew, where census entries for 1861, 1871 and 1881 described him as "Iron Ship Builder and Coal Fitter", "Iron Ship Builder at Stockton, employing 500 men and 60 boys" and finally "Iron Shop Builder employing 750 men and boys". **Lockwood** lived in Stockton, where the 1861 and 1871 censuses described him as "Iron Shipbuilder, Employing 290 Men and 90 boys" and "Iron Shipbuilder employing about 400 men; Borough Magistrate". He was Mayor of Stockton in 1871 & 1872 but died on 2 July 1877, at the age of only 56.

Win Stokes has described George Lockwood to me as "one of Ralph Ward Jackson's boys", which accounts for the West Hartlepool connection. We shall return to Ward Jackson in due course, but first I should complete my tourists' guide to the big houses of Quarrington in the 19th century, by completing the list of occupants of West Hetton Lodge till 1901.

Johnson & Reay

After William Lishman left, the Lodge became the home of **Richard Sheraton Johnson** (1824-1892), who was described in the 1851 and 1861 censuses, respectively, as Colliery Viewer and Mining Engineer. Slater's 1855 Directory (p.15) listed him as the Resident Agent of the Crow Trees Colliery Company, owners of Heugh Hall, Bowburn and West Hetton collieries (of which John Robson was the head viewer). It also listed him as Under Viewer of the South Kelloe and Coxhoe Colliery Company, of which John Robson was given as the Head Viewer. Kelly's Directory listed Johnson as a Colliery Viewer living at Coxhoe, Ferryhill, in 1858 (p.612). It also gave the owners of South Kelloe Colliery (and therefore of "Coxhoe Colliery (Joint Stock)", which it said was owned by the same company) as "Jackson R.W. & Co.". Johnson was therefore an employee of Ralph Ward Jackson's company.

R.S. Johnson's father, George (1796-1866), of Hetton-le-Hole, was described in the first three censuses, respectively, as House Builder, Auctioneer, and Timber Merchant & Builder.

His brother, George Sheraton Johnson, was described as a Timber Merchant in 1851. (There was no description in 1841 and he died early in 1861, before that year's census.)

The colliery at Whitworth was sunk, at a cost of £40,000, by the Durham County Coal Co., who according to Dodd (1897, "A History of Spennymoor"), called it Merrington Colliery. Its first coals were produced on 10 July 1841. However this was not long after the company's shareholders learned (on 25 February) that it had bought five collieries (Coxhoe, Evenwood, Gordon, Norwood and Roddymoor), for a combined price of £190,000, from four of its own directors – the "four Bs", Robert Botcherby, Charles Barrett, John Barr & Thomas Brown. The Whitworth colliery was laid in and dismantled the following year.

It was then acquired by the Whitworth Colliery Co., whose shareholders on 25 March 1846 (Abley, 2004, p.26) were **Thomas Brown** (no longer with the Durham Coal Company, but now owner of nineteen of the 91 new £500 shares), Capt. Chatic (13 shares), Campbell Gillam (13), R. Norman (13), Gideon Colquhon (11), Archibald Dunlop (10), Andrew White (7) and A. Hogue (or Hoagie) (5). Brown had acquired a 42-year lease of the coal rights from Robert Eden Duncombe Shafto, M.P., w.e.f. 12 September 1843. (According to Hair, 1844, they only managed with difficulty to stop Durham County Coal Co. – whether for commercial reasons or from spite against Thomas Brown and another of its former shareowners, **Andrew White** – from removing all the pumps, brattices etc. and making the colliery inoperable.)

The new company failed to make a success of it and Whitworth Colliery was sold to what Dodd called the "West Dock Company" (presumably the Hartlepool West Harbour & Dock Co., which was established in 1844) – which also, according to Dodd, sunk a second pit (called Whitworth, but using the same pithead as Merrington) and built "an enormous number of coke ovens". This was in 1846 – the year Ralph Ward Jackson became its Managing Director.

Then, in 1855, Whitworth Colliery was sold to **Richard Sheraton Johnson**, possibly on his own, though he was in partnership soon after that date with his brother-in-law, **Thomas Mitchelson Reay**. As already noted, Slater's Directory reported in that year (1855) that **Mountjoy Pearse** was Coal Fitter, Agent and Exporter for Whitworth coal and coke. We can assume that he became that during the regime of the "West Dock Company". By 1855 he was already engaging on his shipbuilding career but either he, or George Lockwood, or both, presumably remained the coal fitters for Johnson and Reay in respect of Whitworth.

Writing after Johnson had died, Whellan (1894, p.425) reported that Whitworth Colliery was still owned by Thomas M. Reay but that Whitworth *Park* Colliery, which had opened in 1841, was exhausted in 1882. It is more likely that it was the 1876-1880 depression that forced Reay to lay in the original colliery. That was the Whitworth Park Colliery whose pithead was depicted in T.H. Hair's "Sketches of the Coal Mines in Northumberland and Durham" in 1844 (p.50).

Reay sank a new shaft into the top seam (the colliery referred to by Whellan), to work on a smaller scale, but that too failed and he sold out to **Robert Brown & Robert Oliver**, who were both drapers by trade but also owned another small Spennymoor pit, Rock Colliery. (Oliver, by the way, was the eldest brother of Dr. Willie Oliver, the surgeon & physician of The Lindens, Cornforth Lane, Coxhoe, whose two sons continued in local practice after he

died in 1925.) Brown and Oliver fell out, not least because the former cheated the business! Indeed he was declared bankrupt in 1903, as a result of proceedings taken against him by his partner, Oliver. The colliery at Whitworth was dismantled in 1901 and when the lease on Rock colliery was renewed it was in Oliver's name only. Whitworth was sold to the Weardale Iron and Coal Company. This company, either then or already, owned Whitworth House, which had been Reay's home in 1891. But in 1894 Whellan recorded its occupant as Henry William Hollis, a principal share-owner of that company. That is, Reay must have moved from there by the time Whellan was saying he still owned the smaller Whitworth Colliery.

Whitworth Park Colliery was re-opened in about 1928 and it was finally closed on 29 July 1974.

In 1891, Reay was still living at Whitworth House, described as Colliery Owner in that year's census. During the 1890s, he moved to live in Norton. In 1901, he was living there with his wife and unmarried sister-in-law, Jane Johnson, and was described as Coal Merchant (Own Account). By 1911, his wife had died but he was still living at Norton, presumably accompanied by his unmarried sister-in-law (though she was described as Visitor). They were now aged 81 and 88, respectively. He was described as Colliery Agent (worker). He died in 1919.

Johnson and Reay were also coal-owning partners elsewhere, including Hamsteels Colliery, near Esh Winning, which was sunk in 1867 and started production in 1868. (That finally closed in 1958.)

Johnson died in 1892.

I said just now that I'd return to the fourth son of George & Lucretia Lockwood, **Charles Barrett Lockwood**, (he was the London surgeon) and his sister, Elizabeth Barrett Lockwood. I was intrigued when I first found him cited, with Thomas Michelson Reay, in three documents held by the Durham Records Office. Two of these, in March 1879, when Charles was still a medical student, were a conveyance by the two of them of a barn and garth at the west end of Sedgefield to one William Snowdon, sanitary inspector, with a related mortgage agreement. (DRO-Ref No. D/X 846/13 & 14) The third, in December 1887, was an assignment of mortgage by the two of them, acting as executors of George Johnson, Timber Merchant, late of Sedgefield, to Adam Birkett of Beanley Carr, near Trimdon, farmer. (DRO Ref No. D/X 846/15).

I was not particularly surprised to find Thomas Michelson Reay acting as executor of either his father-in-law, George Johnson (c.1796-1866), or his brother-in-law, George Sheraton Johnson (1828-1861). (Both were timber merchants.) However I could not at first figure how Charles Barrett Lockwood was connected with that family. Then I found that his sister, **Elizabeth Barrett Lockwood**, married George Johnson, son of George Sheraton Johnson, Reay's brother-in-law, the timber merchant of Sedgefield. So George and Lucretia Lockwood's daughter married Thomas Michelson Reay's niece.

It was not a fortunate family, though I do not know the circumstances. **George Sheraton Johnson** died in 1861, at the age of 32, leaving two children, both boys, Robert and the George who married Lucretia Barrett Lockwood. His widow, Jane (née Hopper, a farmer's daughter from Sunderland Bridge – no relation, as far as I'm aware, of the Isaac Hopper of Broom Hill, Tursdale, referred to above) spent the rest of her long life (I think she died in 1912, aged 87) with her unmarried niece, Ann Phillis Innes, in Sedgefield.

Their son, **George Johnson**, died only two years after he married **Elizabeth Barrett Lockwood**, in 1874. (She remarried in 1882, to **William Kirk**, a Brewer and Wine & Spirit Merchant, of Norton. Her stepdaughter, Olive Kirk, married Thomas Michelson Reay's son, John, in 1895.) There was one child of this brief marriage, whom they named **Lucretia Lockwood Johnson**. That daughter, in due course, was staying at the home of her cousin, **Arthur Dorman** (of Dorman, Long & Co.), at Rushpool Hall, Skelton, at the time of the 1891 census. Then, in 1893, she married a Thomas Adam B. Kane, about whom I have not yet found any further information, but who died the following year, in 1894.

Anyway, getting back to that unfortunate child's great uncle, **Richard Sheraton Johnson**, he moved during the 1860s from West Hetton Lodge to Sherburn Hall, where he lived till his death in 1892. He had a son, Crosbie, who I think died in infancy, and three daughters. One of these married Rev. Joseph G. Medland, the Vicar of St. Martin's, Kentish Town, London; the second married Frederick William Stoker, son of the curate of Shincliffe and Second Master at Durham Grammar School, who was manager of an ironworks on Teesside, and the third married Thomas Brough, the manager of New Seaham Colliery.

Wood

Johnson was succeeded as the householder at West Hetton Lodge by **William Henry Wood** (1831–1910), another mining engineer, who was living there at the time of the 1871 and 1881 censuses. He was the eldest of ten children of Thomas Wood (c.1806-1895), described as Colliery Agent at the time of William Henry's baptism, at Boldon, but in 1841 living at Hardwick Hall. Thomas bought Coxhoe Hall in 1850 – where William Henry lived with his parents before moving to West Hetton Lodge.

William Henry's father, **Thomas Wood**, actually left the North East during the 1870s, to live first in Hornsey, Middlesex, and then Carshalton in Surrey – though he remained a Justice of the Peace for County Durham. Moreover, when he bought Coxhoe Water Mill and adjoining land in December 1881, his address was still given as Coxhoe Hall but, though he still owned it, he was no longer living there. He had let Coxhoe Hall to another Wood family: that of **William Outerside Wood**, who were there at the time of the 1881 census.

William Henry Wood (Thomas' son) moved back to Coxhoe Hall, from West Hetton Lodge, before the 1891 census and lived there till he died, in 1910. His children were there till the last two, John and then Mary Maud, both unmarried, both died in 1938. It was never lived in again as anyone's home – unless you count Italian prisoners of war during WWII – and was demolished in 1956.

As far as I can determine, there were no family links between these two Wood families, nor between either of them and that of **Nicholas Wood**, of Killingworth and then Hetton – though the latter did have interests in the Coxhoe and Quarrington area, as we have seen. (Moreover William Henry Wood went to the same school – Kepier, at Houghton – as Nicholas' son, Lindsay, who was two years his junior.)

Both Thomas Wood, the father of William Henry, and his brother James were born in Willoughton, Lincolnshire. (A third brother, John, died before 1841 and I do not know where he was born.) All three had moved to Durham early in the 19th century and the wives of both Thomas and John, and all Thomas's children, were born in the Houghton-le-Spring area. (James never married.) It is possible, of course, that the brothers were returning to their parents' home region. However I have not yet been able to establish who these were.

A Colliery Agent in 1831 (at the time of William Henry's baptism), **Thomas Wood** was simply described as [of] Ind[ependent means] in the 1841 census, when he was living at Hardwick Hall. In 1841/1842, he was presumably the "Mr. Wood", owner of Thornley Colliery, who gave evidence to the Children's Employment Commission. In 1849, he was partner and chief agent of Ludworth Colliery, which (with Thornley Colliery) continued to be owned by Messrs. Chaytor, T. Wood, Gully & Burrell (= Thornley Coal Co.) until at least 1860. In the 1851 census he was described as Colliery Viewer; in 1861 as JP, Coal Owner; in 1871 as Coal and Land Owner and Magistrate; in 1881, by which time he had moved south, as Land and Coal Owner, and in 1891 as JP and DL [Deputy Lieutenant] Co. Durham.

In 1890, Thomas was the owner of Trimdon & Deaf Hill collieries when the Directors of Bell Bros. declined to buy them from William Henry Wood, acting for his father, after receiving an unfavourable report (about the price) from A.L. Steavenson and Wm. Armstrong.

William Henry Wood himself, one time of West Hetton Lodge, was first elected Member of North of England Institute of Mining Engineers in 1856. When he gained his Manager's Certificate, in 1873, he was listed as Manager of Coxhoe Colliery and in the Kelly's Directory of that year he was listed as resident viewer of Coxhoe Colliery and manager of Heugh Hall Colliery. He was the agent of Thrislington Colliery, owned by the Thrislington Coal Co. Ltd, in 1882. (Both these collieries were by then owned by James Morrison and Co.)

William Outterson Wood, who rented Coxhoe Hall for a while between Thomas Wood moving out and his son William Henry moving back in, was also a mining engineer of some note – as were two of his sons (Thomas Outterson Wood jnr and Ernest Seymour Wood). A Member of the North of England Institute of Mining & Mechanical Engineers from 1863, he was at Brancepeth, then Garmondsway, then East Hetton, then Trimdon Grange collieries. In 1882 he was Agent of Cornsay, Inkerman and Lanchester Collieries (owned by Ferens & Love); East Hetton and Trimdon Grange Collieries (Walter Scott), and Houghall and Shincliffe Collieries (J. H. Love & Partner), and by 1888 of Murton and South Hetton Collieries (owned by the South Hetton Coal Co. Ltd.). By then he and his family had moved from Coxhoe Hall to South Hetton Hall. In 1891 he acted on behalf of the trustees of Messrs. Burrell & Shafto in negotiations with Bell Bros., who wished to purchase way-leave rent and coal at Brandon Hill (near Tursdale). He was President of the NEIMME in 1903-04.

"To Let"

Meanwhile, back at West Hetton Lodge, William Henry Wood's move to Coxhoe Hall left it available for its final mining engineer occupants – though it was briefly rented to some one not directly connected with the industry.

West Hetton Lodge was described as unoccupied and "To Let" in the 1891 census. But in the 1890 Kelly's Directory (pp. 47 & 482), it was occupied by **Henry Warwick**. I think he was almost certainly the brewer, born in Boroughbridge in about 1845, who at the time of the 1881 census was living with his family at 68, New Elvet, Durham, but by 1891 had moved to Moray Villa, Woodlands Road, Darlington. His wife, Emma Jane, was born about 1852 at Cassop House, in Old Cassop, the daughter of William and Hannah Jones. (I think her mother was born Hannah Armstrong but have not yet found her parental family.)

[The only Warwick found locally in the censuses was Thomas Warwick, born in Barnard Castle in about 1847, a Glass Maker in 1871, when he was lodging with William Watson, a

miner, probably his brother-in-law, in Tursdale. There was a Henry Warwick, innkeeper, living at Haughton-le-Skerne in both 1881 and 1891 – unlikely to have moved to Quarrington in between those dates.]

Ramsay

During the course of the 1890s, West Hetton Lodge became the home of **William Ramsay**, manager of Bell Brothers' Tursdale Colliery (where he lived till he moved to the Lodge) and in due course of his son John. William was living there at the time of the 1901 census. He died in 1906. His son, **John Ramsay**, was the Colliery Manager (also of Tursdale Colliery) living there in 1911.

The story of the Ramsay family, and of the Harles – to whom they were related by the marriage of one of William's sisters (Mary Ann) to William Harle, manager of Bell Brothers' Page Bank Colliery – belongs more to the history of Bell Brothers and the 20th century Bowburn Colliery than to an account of the "Big House" residents of 19th century Quarrington.

I do not know whether the bridleway past the Lodge came to be known as "Ramsay's Drive" during the father or the son's lifetime, but so it is still known, to this day. One of John's sisters, Jane Elizabeth Mary Ramsay, married **Robert Oxley**, son of the new farmer at Park Hill. John retired as Manager of Tursdale Colliery in 1925 or 1926 but continued to live at the Lodge into the 1930s. After that it was occupied by a family (I think) unconnected with the collieries, the Thwaites. Their son, Henry Outram Thwaite, was killed in action in 1940.

West Hetton Lodge was demolished in 1961.