

## 1 and 2 Town Bottom, Town Bottom Cottage and St Ives Cottage

Information about these four houses was supplied by Philip Blackburn Jones who was living in 1 Town Bottom in 2022. Because the early information about these four properties is interwoven it is useful to have to hand a plan of area they occupy drawn up as part of a Deed of Partition in 1915. In this (see below) 1 Town Bottom is coloured in **pink**, 2 Town Bottom in **brown**, Town Bottom Cottage in **blue**, and finally what became St Ives' Cottage is shown in **green**. The earliest documentary evidence to have emerged concerning the four houses and grounds is found in the 1915 Deed of Partition referred to above. This Deed allows the history of the houses to be traced back to 1838. In some of these early documents it is difficult to distinguish owners from occupiers. The exceptions to this are an 1838 Indenture of Lease Release and in the 1843 tithe map and apportionment. In the former the landlord of all four properties is John Somerset and the tenants are John Middleton, Robert Middleton and Samuel Turner but who of these was living where is not so totally clear. When we come to the 1843 tithe map this shows that plot 114 corresponding to the **pink** area has a house and garden belonging to John Middleton who was living there. Plot 115 **green** is owned by Martin Middleton and rented to Robert Middleton. Plot 116 (several areas with this number) **blue** has a homestead and garden (also a dung yard) with Isaac Somerset as both owner and occupier. (In 1829 Isaac Somerset married Dinah Middleton of Smalldale.) On Plot 117 **brown** the house and garden have Hugh Middleton named as both owner and occupier.

Moving on to 1865 there is an Indenture of Conveyance from Martha Middleton to Samuel Middleton. In 1827 Martha Fisher had married John Middleton and both John and Martha were living on Smalldale in 1881. Perhaps this conveyance relates to 1 Town Bottom.

Likewise there is another Indenture of Conveyance drawn up between Edmund Willis Middleton and Hannah Evans in 1893. Edmund Willis Middleton was the son of Samuel Middleton. So this sale may also relate to 1 Town Bottom where someone with the name of Evans is now seen to be living.

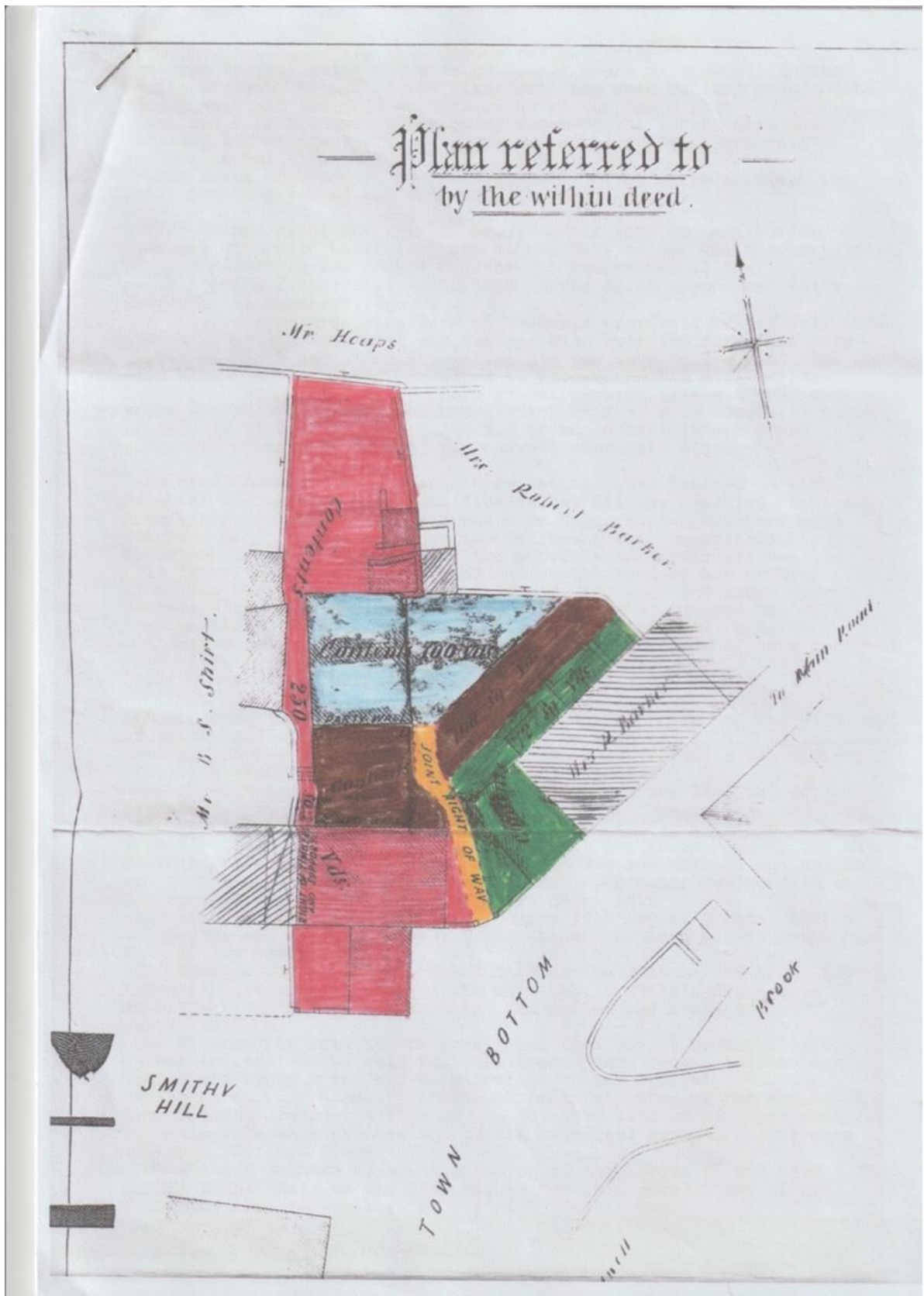
The situation becomes even more complicated when we come to the Deed drawn up in 1915. Amongst others this concerns Felicia Evans the wife of Dennis Evans (brother of Seth Evans). It turns out that Felicia's maiden name was also Evans. Under these arrangements Felicia's sister Barbara Ann Hallam (having married Ben Hallam described as a road man) came by Town Bottom cottage (**blue**). Albert Pearce is identified as living in 2 Town Bottom with its garden (**brown**). The occupant of St Ives' Cottage (**green**) is said to be Joseph Grainger. Emma and Dinah Evans (Felicia's sisters and both spinsters) are occupying 1 Town Bottom (**pink**) (in 1911 their 82 year old father Robert Evans was living with them).

The next piece of documentary evidence can be found in the information collected in 1939 in the process of producing rationing books. In this at schedule number 177 of

the list has Edwin and Lena Roberts living in this property. Edwin is described as a baker and confectioner. Lena was the daughter of Dennis and Felicia Evans and married Edwin Roberts in 1926. This is clearly 1 Town Bottom with its shop. In fact the house and shop then seems to have belonged to Emma Evans who is also living there.

Emma Evans wrote her will in 1936 (by which time her sister Dinah was already dead) naming Fred Evans (her brother) and Harry Hallam as her executors. On the death of Emma Evans, Fred and Harry acted as the vendors of 1 Town Bottom and they sold it to Lena Roberts in 1953. By that time Lena and Edwin had been living at 1 Town Bottom for quite a while.

Following the death of Edwin Roberts Lena moved to Brookside and in 1977 sold 1 Town Bottom cottage to Cedric Arthur Wilson. At that time Cedric was living at the house he had built on Hungry Lane called Belphegor. Cedric was born in Bradwell in 1932 and in 1939 he is shown as living on The Gutter with his parents Robert and Mercy Wilson and his sister Joy. It seems that Cedric Wilson never himself lived in 1 Town Bottom but his paternal Aunt may have lived there. When Cedric sold the property to Philip Jones in 1988 the former's address was given as an hotel at 12 White Point Road, Whitby, North Yorkshire. At the time of purchase Philip was living at 47 Albany Road Sheffield, South Yorkshire. During the time Philip has lived in 1 Town Bottom his daughter Samantha spent two periods living with him. Samantha is a peripatetic hairdresser.



It is also worth noting that in the name Mr B S Shirt on the plan the S stands for Somerset. Benjamin Somerset Shirt was born in Edale where his mother's maiden was Susanna Somerset, who herself was the daughter of Benjamin and Fanny Somerset of Bradwell. See The House I live in' Index.