

The House where I live  
Based on a presentation entitled Oswald House given to the BHS  
by Brian Gillham November 2023

OSWALD HOUSE S339HZ

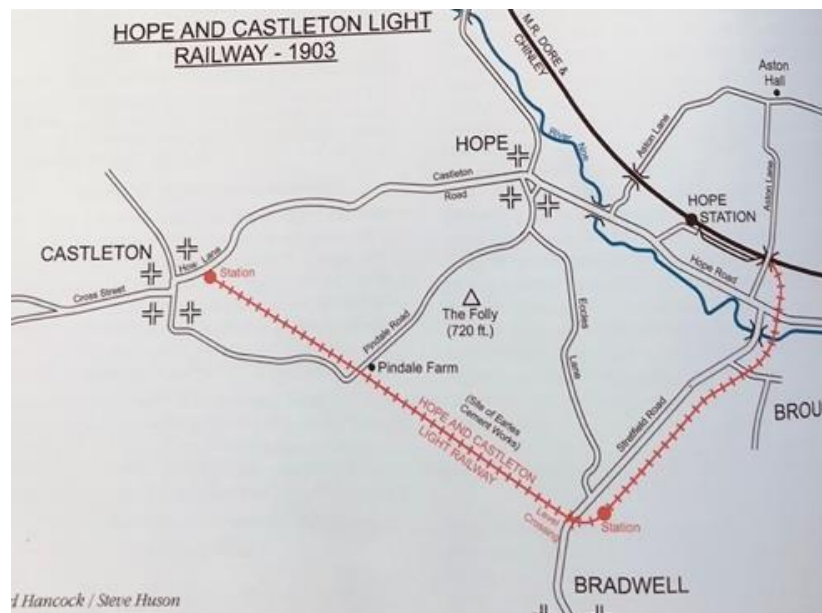
In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> C the family of builders and carpenters called Darneley moved the main focus of their operations to Hull. Originally the family had been associated with Bradwell and Hope and the history and numerous stories of their times in Bradwell have threads that go back as far as the 17<sup>th</sup> C. On their move to Hull the Darneleys retained a home called Dale End on Brookside. In addition they had previously purchased several pieces of land on the Hills. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> C these parcels of land were built on by the Darneleys. The houses built included Corbiestones, Eastbourne, Westholme, Cherry Tree and Uplow.



The other build was of Oswald House and the date on the front wall shows it to have been completed in 1907. The origin of the name is not entirely clear but there are at least two possibilities. Seth Evans noted that Bradwell-born Oswald John Hill aged 48 of Hill Stile died on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1907. So the person living in Hill Stile the house next to the newly completed Oswald Houses had just died. The other Oswald who enters the picture was Oswald Darneley one of the Darneley family of builders. So perhaps the name was for the two Oswalds.

The date of completion of the house suggests that Oswald House was one of the large houses (with rooms for servants) constructed on the Hills in anticipation of the arrival of a light railway running from Hope to Bradwell and on to Castleton. In the event the 5 year permission for the railway expired in 1909 by which time work had not yet begun on the rail construction and therefore never would be. So perhaps

without the rail link the houses didn't now look to be so attractive to businessmen from Sheffield and Manchester.



Plan for railway that was never built

Although the part played by the Darneleys in the building of Oswald House is clear their intended customer(s) is not. The earliest indication of the occupants of Oswald House is to be found in the census returns of 1911. Unusually for these records the name of Oswald House was coupled with those of its occupants (usually there is just mention of the location e.g. The Hills or Bradwell not the house). The names of the occupants of Oswald House were given as Ralph Haynes Angier and Alice Louise Angier with Ralph's occupation being that of "Consultant Engineer". It may be of some relevance but Ralph and Alice Louise were married in Lambeth in 1909. So perhaps Oswald House was their first marital home. Ralph was still in residence the following year when he is listed as one of the prominent citizens of Bradwell in the Kelly's Trade Directory for Derbyshire in 1912. A new occupant for Oswald House appears in a later Kelly's Directory dated 1925. She is Mrs Edith Sissons. It is possible that Mrs Sissons was in residence as early as 1915. (A brief note states that Ralph abandoned his wife in 1919 but not where they were living at the time.) She had been born Edith Davy in 1862 and had married Charles Sissons in 1884. Charles occupation was stated in the 1911 census to have been a retired silversmith. Charles died in Sheffield in 1914. So it may have been that year or the next Edith moved to Oswald House. In a letter written much later in 1965, but referring to events in 1915, a person by the name of Walter Maxwell Sissons is said to have been resident on The Hills. In fact Walter probably never lived on the Hills except during visits to Edith who was his aunt. Edith Sissons continues to be recorded as living in Oswald House in the data collected 1939 by when she had been joined by her two spinster sisters Deborah and Amy Davy. Likewise Edith's name is given as the occupant of Oswald House in the 1941 edition of Kelly's Trade Directory for Derbyshire. The name of Dr Gerard Patrick Lafferty, living on in Nether Cottage, Netherside, is also listed. Around about this time Dr Lafferty seems to have purchased Oswald House, but Edith Sissons continued to live there until her death in

1948 when probate was granted to her sister Amy Davy, but by this time the house, as stated, belonged to Dr Lafferty who sold it to the Biggins family. They were Arthur and his second wife Daisy and his sons Arthur Jnr, Colin, and Derek. The land associated with Oswald House was quite extensive and so by 1964 the family had build the house called Morval in the grounds. So once more Oswald House was on the market and was bought by Walter and Rita Rowland who moved in 1964 with their sons Richard, Stephen and William. Walter and Rita continued to live there until first Walter and then Rita passed away. For a while after that William remained in occupation but after William's death the house had not found a buyer by early 2024.



Oswald House 2007