

**A History of  
Rose Lea & Rose Lea Cottage  
Yard Head, Bradwell**

**Background:-**

The cottages of Rose Lea & Rose Lea Cottage were built as part of the same contiguous building which is itself attached to two other cottages at the eastern end.

The construction date of the original building is at present uncertain. The earliest reference so far found is 1819, although it is probable that the buildings predate this by a considerable time.

The Blundells's Estate Agent's Sales Brochure from 1990 states that the properties were thought to date back c. 300 years and that John Wesley preached from the main bedroom window, probably in the 1750's. However, there does not appear to be any evidence for these claims.

When looking at the southern elevation of the buildings, the left (western) end was called Rose Lea, and was used around the 1819 as a Work or Poor house.

The right hand (eastern) end, about one-third of the overall size of the whole building, was called Rose Lea Cottage. The top garden area originally contained the early toilets.

**Sources:-**

'Bradwell Ancient and Modern' by Seth Evans 1912

Various Conveyance documents, which gave details of the early owners of the properties, are included with the Deeds of the property.

Bradwell Tithe map (c. 1841) and Tithe Schedule (c. 1843) held at Matlock Public Records Office.

Further research: See property references 138a, 138b etc.

Consider searching in the a) Land Tax (1692 – 1961) records, b) Window Tax (1696 – 1851) records. The Hearth Tax (1662 – 1670) was too early to be of interest.

**History:-**

- 1819            The house was described in 'Bradwell Ancient and Modern' as "But in 1819, having an eye to business, the overseers removed the paupers and their looms to other premises at Yard Head, now two houses belonging to Mr. Albert Bradwell, which was the workhouse down to the Bakewell Union being formed." (Notes:- a) the reform of the Poor Law was in 1834, b) the Bakewell Union was formed on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1838 and the workhouse built for 220 inmates. The area of the whole Union is 104,617 acres, rateable value in 1895 £206,453 and population in 1891 was 32,153 & c) the Bradwell Poor House overseers at c. 1812 were Thomas Hill (shopkeeper) and Robert Middleton (miner who lived at Smalldale).
- 28/10/1821    Alexander Hallatt of Dickfield House in Ecclesall, Brierlow, Sheffield left all his Half-share to his wife Hannah Hallatt in his will. Hannah died in January 1825.
- Jan 1825       The house passed (as specified in Alexander Hallatt's will) to John Elliott and his wife Martha, who was Alexander's daughter. Martha died 19/07/1852 and John on 30/12/1866.
- 30/12/1866    The house passed (as specified in Alexander Hallatt's will), to Martha's children, William and Samuel Elliott. Samuel died on 01/03/1882 as a bachelor without any children. William died on 25/03/1884 and left his property to his daughter Emma Elliott.
- 18/04/1894    Emma Elliott (of 144 Ellesmere Road, Sheffield, Widow) sells Rose Lea to Mr. Albert Edwin Bradwell (clothier and draper), "all the half-share of house formally used as a Poor House but now divided into two houses at Yard Head recently occupied by Isaiah Hartle and Mary All Hall but now empty next to property owned by Robert Bradwell".

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- 07/10/1897 Rose Lea Cottage is sold to Mr. Albert Edwin Bradwell (clothier and draper). He now owns both the two properties.
- 26/12/1921 The properties are left in Mr. Bradwell's will to his wife Mrs. Maria Bradwell.
- 16/07/1941 The properties are left in Mrs. Maria Bradwell's will to her nephew Mr. Robert Eydes.
- 24/03/1960 Robert Eydes sold the properties to Mr. John Ragland Thompson and Mrs. Joan Thompson. (Mrs. Joan Thompson is the sister of Mrs. Mike Ramsey who presently lives in Bradwell). Mr. Thompson made many improvements to the properties during his ownership. These included installing internal toilets, and constructing the garage and fuel / oil store. He also removed the stone mullions to the main windows as these were contributing to a damp problem and then installed Everest aluminium double glazing throughout the properties. He constructed the summer house and greenhouse in the top garden. He also knocked through, both upstairs and downstairs, between the two separate cottages to care for Joan's elderly father who was living in Rose Lea Cottage at the time.
- 20/10/1989 John Thompson sold the properties to Mr. & Mrs. John Robert Arnold and went to live in Chapel-en-le-Frith.
- 14/02/1990(?) The properties were sold by Mr. & Mrs. Arnold to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Day. The Day family installed gas fired central heating, installed the blue enameled black topped gas fired Aga boiler in the kitchen and discovered and exposed the fireplace in the lounge. They put in the back window of the master bedroom. They removed the mullions in the master and second bedrooms.
- July 2001 The properties were sold to Mr. & Mrs. Steve Lawless. The Lawless' joined the study and sitting room in Rose Lea Cottage into the larger dining room, (in the process removing the small sink and enlarging the back window), refurbished the shower room, replaced the front windows and doors and the lounge patio doors with hardwood frames made by Mr. Derek Biggin, a carpenter living at Brookside, and re-roofed the garage and utility room and knocked through between the kitchen and utility room, discovering the 'warming oven' in the process.
- Access to the outside toilets in the top garden was originally via steps alongside the neighbouring wall, beside what is now the garage. There were two toilets, side by side. When the crazy paving was lifted and middle section of the garden was turned to lawn in 2008, the remains of the toilet block footings and much broken ceramic were uncovered.

**Further Research:-**

- Continue research through the census returns to link names to properties.
- Produce 'own' map of the Yard Head area to help analysis of census information.