

## BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### NEWSLETTER No 42 August 2024

#### Up-coming events

One of the major events in our calendar is now fast approaching as we prepare for the mounting of our stall on Beggars Plot for Carnival on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. We hope to set up our marquee at 7 pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Since it won't be secure those items we aim to sell: Books, Pamphlets DVDs etc will be laid out at about 11 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will also be able to offer for sale The Jabez Bradwell Diary that we've recently reprinted (see Newsletter No 41). In addition we will be offering our challenge to stick a pin in a map, this time of the Isle of Man. So any help you can give with the marquee of Friday and its taking down at about 4 pm of Carnival day would be great. Coming along at some time between 12 noon and 4 pm to help steward the stall will also be very much appreciated.

#### Additions to the Society Website

In an heroic effort Andy Smith has been able to place all of the annotated photographs collected by Keith Hall in the preparation of the writing of 'After Seth' on to our Website (<https://bradwellhistoricalsociety.org.uk>) These show all the houses in the village that had been built or altered in some way in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In fact the work is not quite complete so Andy asks if any member can fill in a gap left by Keith in not identifying buildings numbers 100 and the final group 174-179. He also asks for any additions or corrections to the list appended after the photographs.

### **Tales of Old Smalldale**

#### **Part 4 The will of Thomas Fox 1760**

Brought together by Val Hall c. 2000 the documents below relate to the will of Thomas Fox of Smalldale written 21<sup>st</sup> May 1760. The documents were transcribed by John Unsworth 19<sup>th</sup> November 1997. The typed copy was supplied to John Unsworth by Alan Bradwell of Derby who in turn had been supplied by Myra Jones in 1992. It reads:

In the name of God Amen.

I Thomas Fox the Elder of Smaldale (sic) in the Parish of Hope in the County of Derby Miner do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner following

First my will and mind is that my just debts and funeral expenses be paid and discharges and I charge all my estate with the payment of same

Also I give and bequeath to my loving wife ALICE FOX during her natural life the house wherein I now dwell and from and after her decease I give and devise the same to my son THOMAS FOX his heirs and assigns forever

Also I give and bequeath to my said wife one cow and my will and mind is that she shall have room in the barn and shippon for laying of hay and standing for one cow during her life or so long as she shall think proper to keep one

Also I give and bequeath to my said wife one half part or share of all my mines within the liberty of Kingsfield or elsewhere during her natural life and the other half part or share I give to my said son THOMAS and from and after her decease I give and devise the same and all other parts and shares of mines with all mineral tolls and possessions thereto belonging to my said son THOMAS his heirs and assigns forever.

Also I give and devise to my said wife during her life two crofts called Duding Croft and Wyld Croft lying in Smaldale aforesaid and after her death give and devise the same to my said son THOMAS his heirs and assigns for ever.

Also I give and bequeath to my said son THOMAS the sum of forty pounds of lawful money of Great Britain to be paid by my executrix and executor within twelve months next after my decease they paying unto my said wife the sum of thirty shillings a year during her life.

Also I give and bequeath to my said son THOMAS after the death of my wife the best bed and bedding thereto belonging also the Clock and one large Seat in the house.

Whereas my son in law ROBERT BURROW'S stands justly and truly indebted to me in the sum of fifty pounds of lawful money of Great Britain my will and mind is and I hereby quit and discharge him from the said debt and all other debts dues and demands whatsoever he paying to my wife the sum of ten shillings a year during her life.

Also I give and bequeath to my daughter JANE wife of ROBERT MIDDLETON and to her heirs and assigns for ever the house wherein she now dwells with a shop thereto adjoining standing and being in Smaldale aforesaid paying to my wife the sum of twenty shillings a year during her life.

Also I give and bequeath to my said wife one cow and my will and mind is that she shall have room in the bam and shippon for laying of hay and standing for one cow during her life or so long as she shall think proper to keep one.

Also I give and devise to my daughter MARY the wife of JOHN BRADWELL and to her heirs and assigns forever the house wherein she now dwells with a garden and barn thereto belonging. Also one small croft lying in Smaldale aforesaid formerly called Frith Garden paying thereout unto my said wife the sum of ten shillings a year during her life.

Which several payments my will and mind is shall be paid half yearly.

Also I give and bequeath to my daughter HANNAH the sum of thirty pounds of lawful money of Great Britain to be paid her by my Executrix and Executor within twelve months next after my decease.

Also I give and devise to my said daughter HANNAH her heirs and assigns forever the house wherein my son THOMAS now dwells in with one bay of a barn thereto adjoining also a stable standing cross the way near to the said house to enter and take possession of the same immediately after the death of my wife.

Also I give and bequeath to my said daughter HANNAH the bed and bedding thereto belonging wherein she usually doth lye. Also one chest in the little chamber one large oval table and one large seat in the house place. Also one stone trough standing to the wall of my son THOMAS house and one small building called the coal house to take possession of the same immediately after the death of my wife. And all the rest residue and remainder of my personal estate of what nature or kind soever I give and bequeath to my said wife for and during the term of her natural life and from and after her decease to be disposed to and among my children as she by her last will and testament in writing duly executed shall think proper.

And lastly I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said wife and WILLIAM IBBERSON Executrix and Executor of this last will and testament hereby revoking all former will and wills by me at any time heretofore made

In witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal

The twenty first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty

Signed: THOMAS FOX

Witnessed WILLIAM FOX (signed)

EDWD BOWMAN (mark)

GEO. HALL (signed)

Probate granted WILLIAM IBBERSON at Lichfield 23 February 1761

Thus Thomas Fox the Elder owned

House, Garden, Barn and Shippon

Mines at Kingsfield

Duding Croft, Smaldale

Wyld Croft, Smaldale

House and Shop in Smaldale – occupied by Jane Middleton

Frith Garden, Smaldale

House, Barn and Stable – occupied by Thomas Fox Jnr

House and Barn – occupied by Mary Bradwell

Coal House

Various monies and furniture

Unfortunately it has not been possible to locate precisely the various places given as being in Smaldale. On consulting the 1843 tithe map one finds a Thomas Fox as executor of property below Kiln Lane off Smalldale and also the properties of Geo. Fox and Nanny Fox in the same general location. Likewise Thomas Fox (Thomas Fox Jnr or his son?) is shown as the executor and George Fox as tenant of meadows in the region of Smalldale Head Road.

In the 18C there were two Kingsfields associated with lead mining : one centred on Wirksworth and the other on the High Peak. Both were mineral rich lands belonging to the Crown with individual mines on them licenced by the Crown to various families.