

Ainsworth Hall



This material must not be copied or published in any form, including social media, without the express permission of Ainsworth Village Archive Group

Most of the information was obtained from Ken Bullock's book and we are grateful for the time he put into researching it

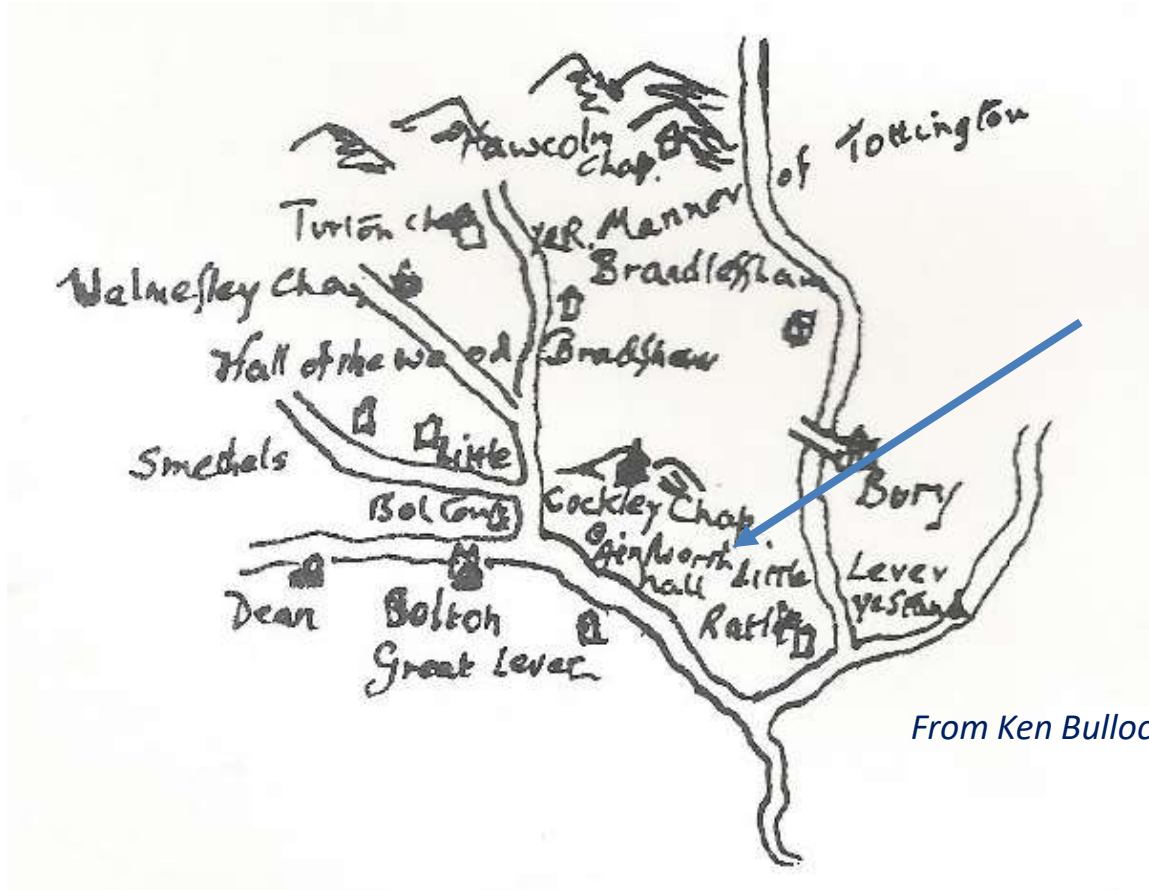
Ainsworth Hall

It is thought that there was a building in the same location in 1066 – the time of the Norman Conquest

In 1370, a “John de Aynsworth” lived in this area

Ainsworth Hall

However, the first real mention of the Hall is in 1610, in John Speed's map of Lancashire



From Ken Bullock's book

And in 1622 Geoffrey Lomax (Jeffrey Lomas) lived there

In 1730, the first real description of the Hall, says it was “being of red brick with stone dressings to an earlier stone mansion”

The lead downspouts were inscribed “L LE 1730” – the L thought to stand for Lomax

There were extensive cellars and the Hall had a bowling alley

There is a tradition that there were underground passages leading from the hall, but these have never been found

The start of the Industrial Revolution probably brought a new type of owner to the Hall

We know that, by 1774, William Wilson, a calico-printer, was living there as he gave notice that one of his apprentices John Taylor of Ainsworth, had left his service without permission, still having 4 years to do. Wilson threatened to prosecute anyone employing him (or encouraging him not to continue his service)

He had problems again in 1782 when a piece of velveret was stolen from his bleaching Ground by Thomas Boardman.

Thomas was committed to the House of Correction and was then transported to the West Indies for 7 years.

In 1780 Wilson was granted a licence to build a road from Ainsworth Hall to Radcliffe, although it is not clear if this was ever built. And in 1778 he married Cordelia Maude at Ripon. They were only married 5 years when William died

On William's death, the house was sold. It was described as being "a genteel modern well-built sashed house, with coach house, stables, gardens and all conveniences suitable for a large family."

Ainsworth Hall

The Hall didn't seem to be particularly lucky as by the next year (1784) notice was given that a partnership based at the hall, between calico printers Baker, Cooper, Whitehead and Chadwick had been dissolved.

Baker disputed this, but the other three gave notice that they would refuse to meet any further debts incurred by Baker.

Nathaniel Chadwick lived at the hall and the three continued their business there, but by 1786 the partnership was dissolved and only Whitehead continued

The Whitehead Family lived at the Hall for 50 years and the Hall included a Pleasure Ground, Fish pool and Print Shop

It was left empty and became dilapidated. It entered a new phase when John Taylor agreed to rent it

He had previously lived at Ainsworth House on Bury Road and had been threatened by Chartists on their way back from Bolton to Bury – he gave them drinks of sherry mixed with water and they left him in peace

He agreed to rent the hall (for £20 per annum) and would do all the repairs.

When he moved in he claimed a proprietary seat in church (which was central to a dispute a few years after) and 2 years later he signed the pledge

There were a series of arguments between Taylor and the church wardens.

He found things at the Church unsatisfactory and set up his own church at the hall – with seats and organ

And when this became too small, he converted a brewhouse into a chapel, seating 120. He left the Hall in 1850

There is a nineteenth century painting of the Hall

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/1111289>

It's next phase seems to have been as a Ladies Boarding School
– in 1871 it was run by Mrs Ann Barnsdale and her daughter and
had 11 pupils, aged 7 to 16 years



Ainsworth Hall

It seems it then became a “home” again



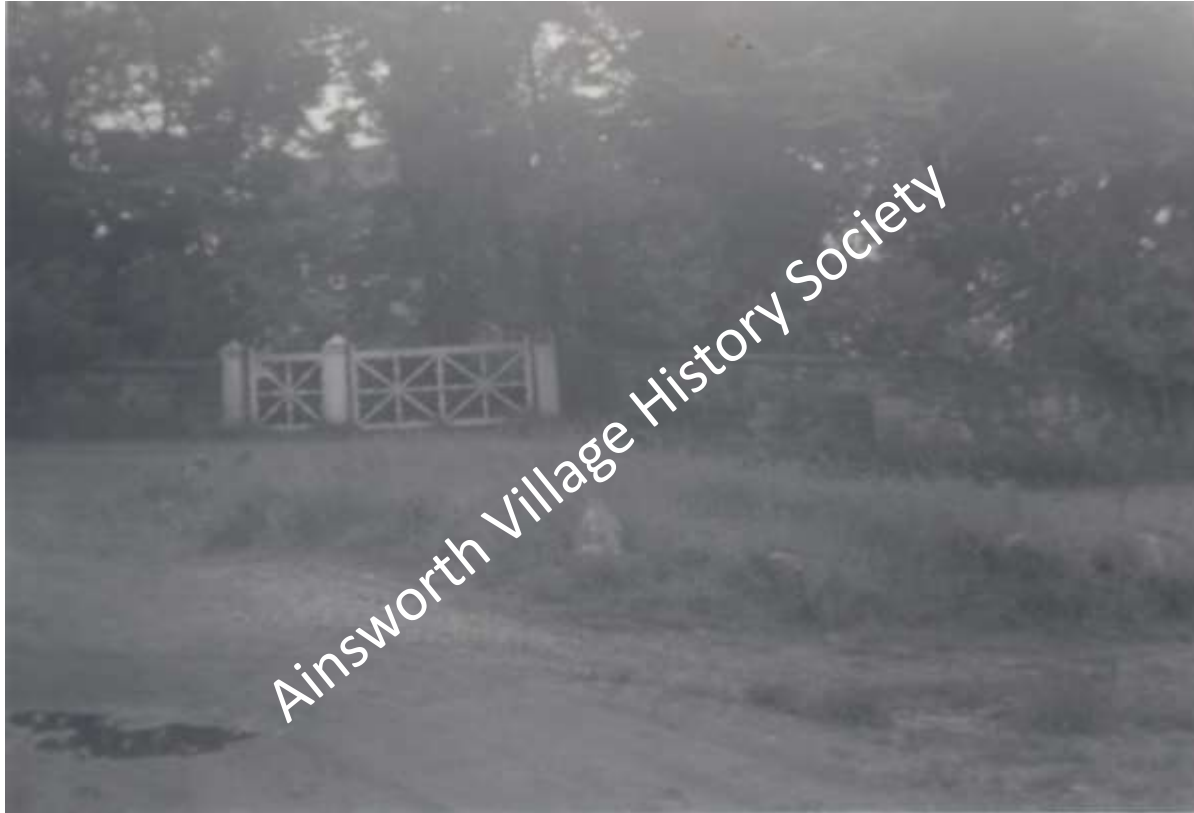
Bolton Journal 1965



The front of the house Circa 1965



The back of the house Circa 1965



The gates of the house Circa 1965

Walter Taylor, the Post Master, tells tales of the three “quaint old maids” who ran the Boarding School and their efforts to prevent their servants and the young men from the village getting together – assisted by their bull-terror “Bruce”.

An old couple called Kershaw lived at Ainsworth Hall cottages and he did odd jobs for the Misses Barnsdale who ran the school. One day, Miss Barnsdale was baking and he said to her “I wish my wife could bake like that” She replied “tell your wife to bring her barm and flour across and I’ll show her” Kershaw replied “oh – she can bake – but that’s what we’re short of – barm and flour”

Ainsworth Hall

... and we would like more information about its use
from 1900 until its demolition in 1966