

# Farms

(focussing on those within 1 mile of  
the centre of the village)

(with additional information from David E  
and there are new photos of Barrack  
Fold farm on the photos/archive section)

In the past, the main industry in and around Ainsworth was mining, quarrying, weaving and farming – both animals and crops

However, the nature of the soil and the position of Ainsworth – high up and on the edge of the Pennine Moors, means that the soil would almost certainly need to be improved before crops could be grown successfully

In 1789 (the year Arthur Lane Farm was built) there were 49 farm hoses in Ainsworth. By the 1950's this was about halved - most of the small holdings along Arthur Lane were about 2 ½ acres.

Many of the farms had pedigree herds – Dearden's Fold and Brown Hill had pedigree dairy herds and Davenport Farm had a pedigree goat herd.

Often the farm would not support the family and so other jobs were undertaken

Eg. In 1841 census, five of the Tootills of Davenport Farm were shown as cotton weavers:

Abraham	30	cotton weaver	(in fact 35)
Rachel	30	cotton weaver	(in fact 35)
Alice	12	cotton weaver	born 1828/9
James	10	cotton weaver	born 1830/1
John	8	cotton weaver	born 1833

And in the 1940's Harold Hornby worked at Moscrops

X Barrack Fold

X Broomfield

X Arthur Lane Farm

X New Brown Hill

X Davenports

X Brown Hill

North west  
section

*Bury Old Road*

X Dearden's Fold

*Church Street*

■ *White Horse*

*Arthur Lane*

## Barrack Fold Farm

The original farm is believed to have been built in 1601 as this date appears on the building with the initials R.T.H.  
This is the farm prior to it burning down



1642 In June, Lord Strange, attended a meeting at Preston and declared for the King.

He mustered the county in three places - on Cockey Moor, on Haughton Moor, near Ormskirk, and on Fulwood Moor, near Preston, in all, sixty-thousand men. This assembly was in preparation for the attack on Bolton.

The assembly on Cockey Moor was possibly in the neighbourhood of Barrack Fold farm, from which it has been suggested that the farm received its name.

(It has also been suggested that Knowsley, which is the name of the Stanley's in Lancashire, received its name because Lord Strange's soldiers mustered there)

## Davenport Farm

The house has a date stone on the gable end wall which reads “H · D · E 1723”. Records suggest that these initials may be those of Edward Davenport and his wife.

The Davenport family are known to have been living in this area as far back as 1694

In 1723 the building probably looked quite different from today. It was a working farm with a lot of land, which has slowly been sold off.

The house was originally a large barn and cottage.

## Davenports (1838 shown as Devenports)

The farm has been occupied by many families in its lifetime, some of whom are known.

Some of the previous owners of Davenport Farm:

1723                  Edmund Davenport

1829                  Robert Aldred

1841                  Abraham Toothill

1855                  John Toothill

1939-52              The Hornby family

The Boys family – the last family to run it as a farm



1891

Davenport farm

John Thomas Toothill,  
Herbert Toothill,  
John toothill

Seated: Abraham Toothill



Yates family at Davenport Farm

In the summer of 1939, the Hornby family moved from their home at Eagley Bank to 3 Arthur Lane, Ainsworth, a newly built semi-detached three bedroomed house across the lane from the land and out buildings of Davenport Farm

They took the tenancy of a share of the land that formed the farm, with its barn (dated 1723), stables, shippon, pig sty, hen cabins and other sheds, old house (no longer habitable) dated 1742 and outside lavatory building.

All in need of repair and subsequent upkeep.



Davenport farm – 1940's

First rose queen event – girl guide organising event and giving speech is Helen Hornby

A Typical day for Harold:

Tending the animals early morning;

walking to Bury Old Road at the end of Arthur Lane for the 7am number 8 bus to Bolton;

doing hard manual labour at Moscrops in hot conditions through each day;

returning home at 6pm to share the evening meal before going “up the field” to attend to all the jobs that were too hard or too difficult for Bessie (his wife) to undertake

– fencing, mucking out, carrying water, boiling peelings (collected by the children from residents in Delph Lane and others) to prepare them for feeding to the hens and pigs.

Bury Corporation collected waste from residents in the Borough, heat treated it and sold it to farmers and small holders for animal feed (this was often referred to irreverently as “Bury Black Pudding”).



Davenport farm –Haymaking circa 1942. “Billy” harness and cart made by Harold.  
Young man – a colleague of Harold’s from Moscrops (oil refiners) Margaret on top –  
Helen loading



Davenport farm – 1940's  
Harold surveying his first crop of oats

At the start the farm was being built up – hens, ducks and pigs to begin with, Billy Donkey and Ginger the pony.

Eventually Harold built up a pedigree herd of British Saanen goats, starting with the gift of a rejected kid.

She was a wonderful pet and proved to be a fine mother to many prize winning offspring.

Serious goat keeping didn't start until after the war, when the pedigree herd was registered with the British Goat Society as "The Cockymoor herd"

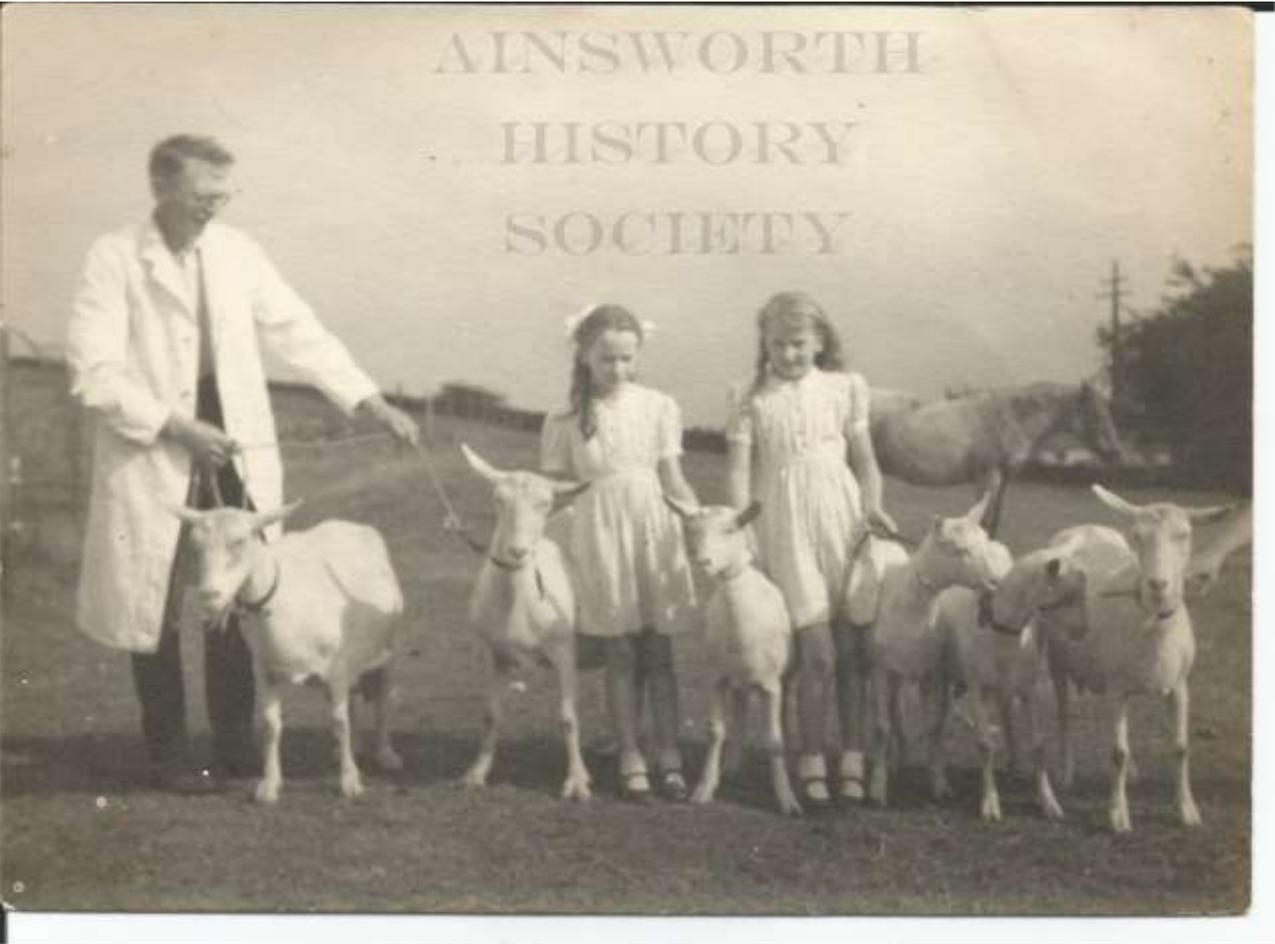


“Billy” donkey with visiting friends; “ginger” Helen, Enid and Margaret



Davenport farm – 1940's

Harold Hornby with daughters Margaret and Marian with "Cockey Moor herd" at Davenport Farm





Davenport farm

There are new photos for Barrack Fold farm on the website

## New Brown Hill Farm

At the moment we don't have any information about this farm – so additional contributions would be appreciated

*NB: new information from David – see end*

## Brown Hill Farm

Brown Hill farm has the date 1732 over the shippon door, with the initials B.M.A

Many of those present remembered the farm being occupied by Joe Heyes



Brownhill farm 1966



Brownhill farm 1958

## Broom Field

The buildings at Broomfield farm were pulled down and the Isolation Hospital (now a nursing home) was built on its site

## Dearden Fold Farm

Dearden Fold farm has the date 1691 over the shippon door, with the initials D.R.P. The farmhouse is possibly medieval with seventeenth century alterations and additions

It was originally a 13<sup>th</sup> century Cruck House (made from wood from shipwrecks) with stone added in the 14<sup>th</sup> century

Picture from the south east.



The farm is one of Ainsworth's oldest buildings.

X Old Barn

X Paddock Leach

*Knowsley Cottages*

*Cockey Moor*

*Knowsley Road*

North East  
section

*Church Street*



## Old Barn Farm

In 1871 STEPHEN and AGNES GREEN were farming 30 acres at Astmal Closes, Affetside , STEPHEN being 24 years of age and AGNES being 21 years of age. Their two elder children were born at Astmal Closes, MARY ANN born circa 1872 and WILLIAM born circa 1873.

The family appear to have moved from Astmal Closes to Old Barn Farm, Ainsworth, between 1873 and 1875 because the five younger children were all born at Old Barn Farm. All the five younger children were baptised at Ainsworth Methodist Church.

Old Barn Farm, Ainsworth was farmed for about 90 years by four generations of the GREEN family.



Old Barn Farm



X Dearden's Fold

*Greenside*

X Plant's Farm

*Ainsworth Hall Road*

X Ainsworth  
Hall farm

X Rothwells

X Higher  
Green

X Lower  
Green

X Plane Trees

*Church Street*

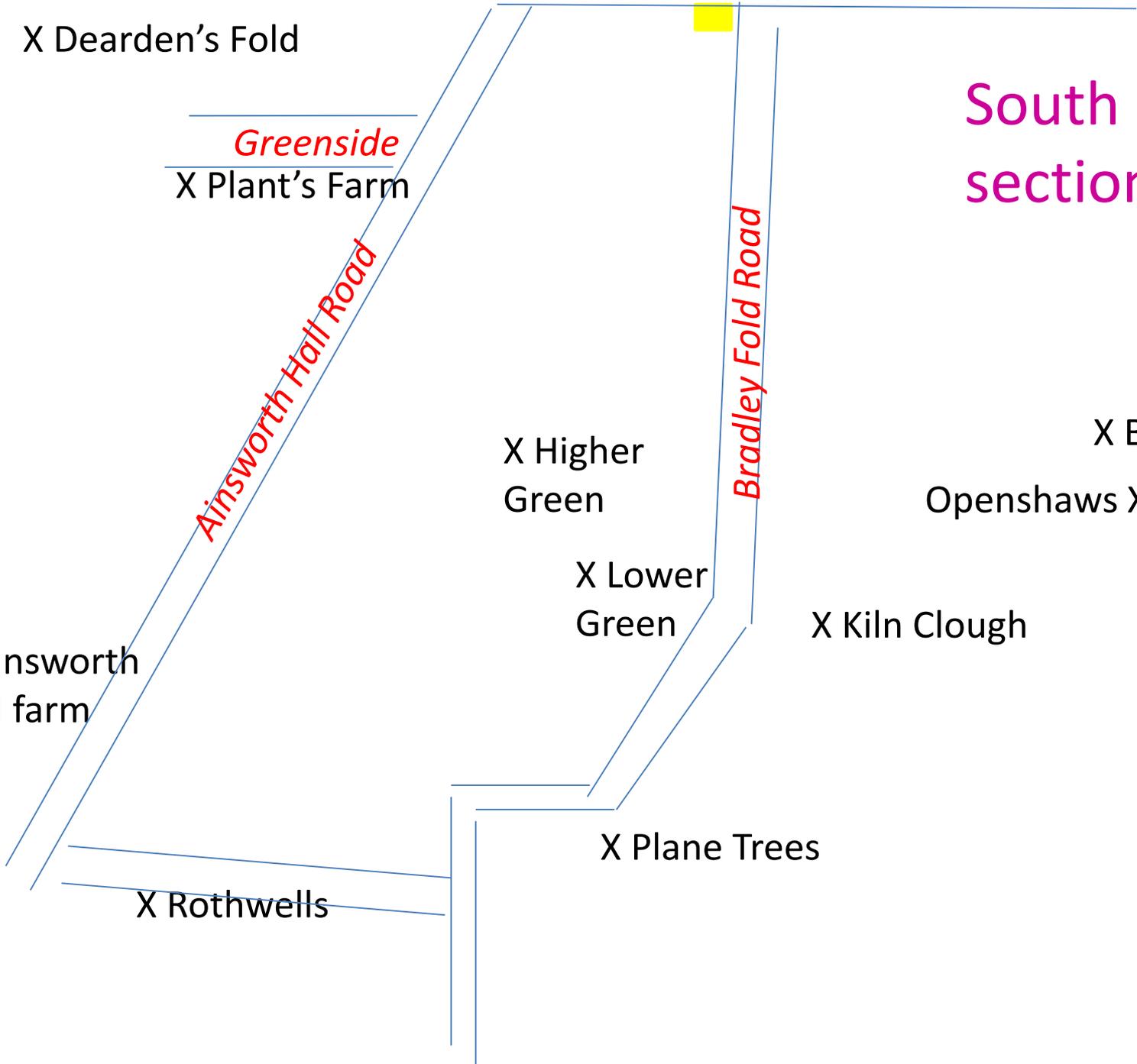
*Bradley Fold Road*

South  
section

X Booths

Openshaws X

X Kiln Clough



## Plant's Farm

Butcher Barn, which was probably connected with what was Plants Farm, was built in 1760 - It has the inscription J K 1760

Plants Farm was on Butcher Street - the short road joining Ainsworth Hall Road and Greenside (now a continuation of Greenside)

There was a smithy near the farm

The area round Plant's farm was called Bull Fold.

The farm is not shown on the 1838 tithe map.

## Higher Green and Lower Green

In 1630 Land was given by Rauffe Assheton, enclosed from the common of Ainsworth, for the maintenance of the Minister of Cockey Chapel. It amounted to one messuage and six acres of land, the messuage being Higher Green farm. In 1650 the value of this messuage and land was given as a yearly value of 40 shillings

(A messuage is a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use)

# Kiln Clough

Mr Firth was the farmer at Kiln Clough who adopted Henry Harley .

Mrs Firth helped with the education of the village children, though she was not a school teacher.

Mrs Street remembers seeing rows of hooks at the farm, where the children hung their coats, so it seems likely that she held classes there,

# Rothwells

An uncle of David Earnshaw's mother's, Mr Harold Mort, was born in 1895 at Rothwells, Ainsworth.

In 1920 he married Annie Williams in Carnarvon.

Harold died in an accident at Ainsworth Hall in January

When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered
28 <sup>th</sup> January 1921 Bury Infirmary Bury U.D.	Harold Mort	Male	26 years	Working electrician with an electric power company and of Ainsworth Hall, Ainsworth	Fall from an electric lighting pole (on which he was fixing wires) due to an electric shock. Injuries to head and brain Accident	Certificate received from Saml. F. Butcher Coroner for Lancashire Inquest held 31 <sup>st</sup> January 1921	Thirty first January

Fall from an electric  
lighting pole (on which he  
was fixing wires) due to an  
electric shock. Injuries  
to head and brain  
Accident

HARRY, a bachelor and farmer of 21 years of age, and the next to the youngest son of STEPHEN and AGNES GREEN, of Old Barn Farm, married ELIZABETH, a spinster and a cotton operative of 23 years of age and daughter of JOSEPH MORT, **engineer of The Rothwells**, Ainsworth at Ainsworth Methodist Church on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1905



Plane trees 1960

## Booths Farm and Openshaws

Openshaws appears on the 1850 map but not on the 1893 one



Booth's farm - home of Eliza Warburton who was married on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1900 to James William Rayson



Booth's farm 1960

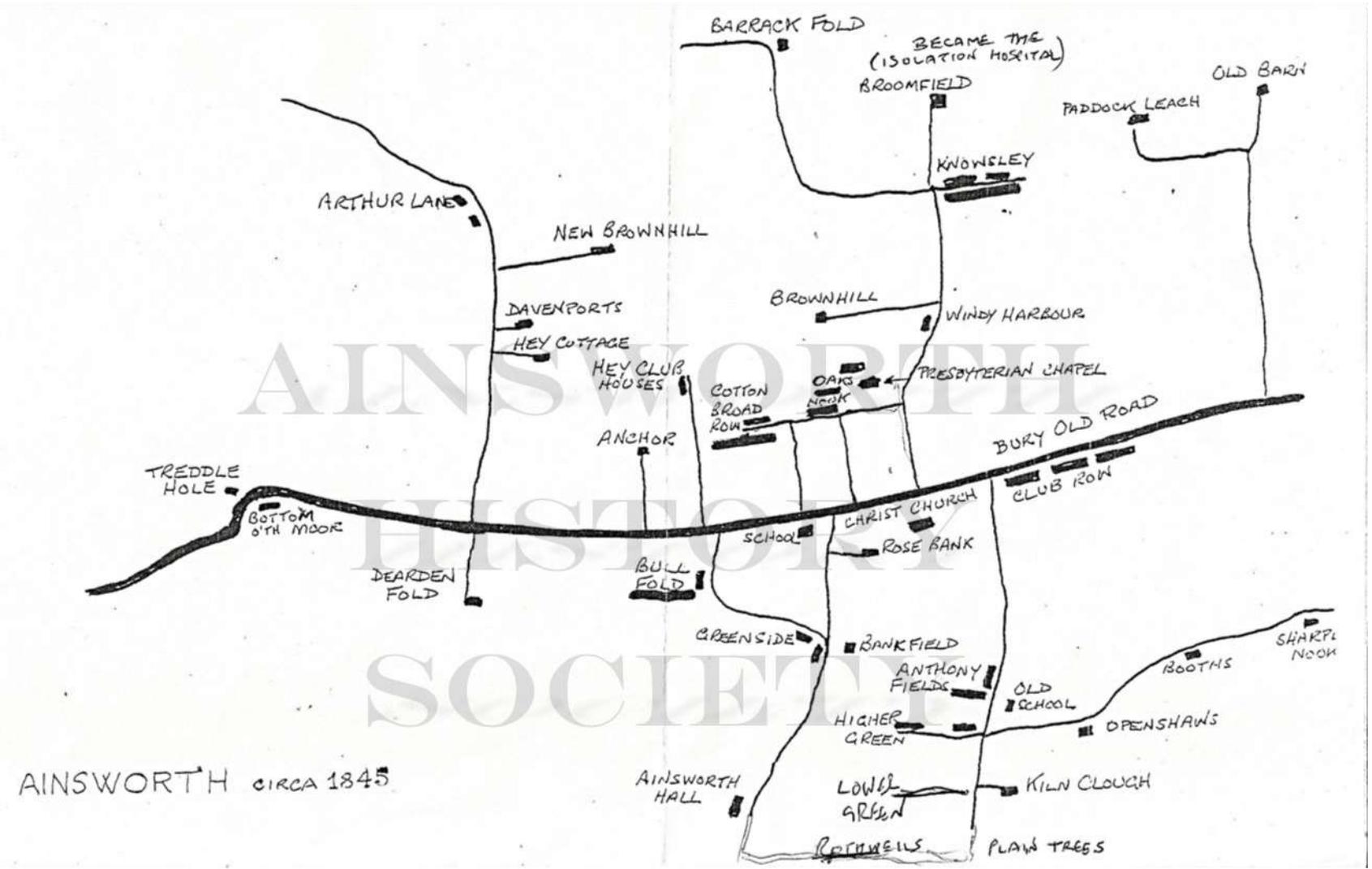


Booth's farm 1960

Ainsworth Hall Farm

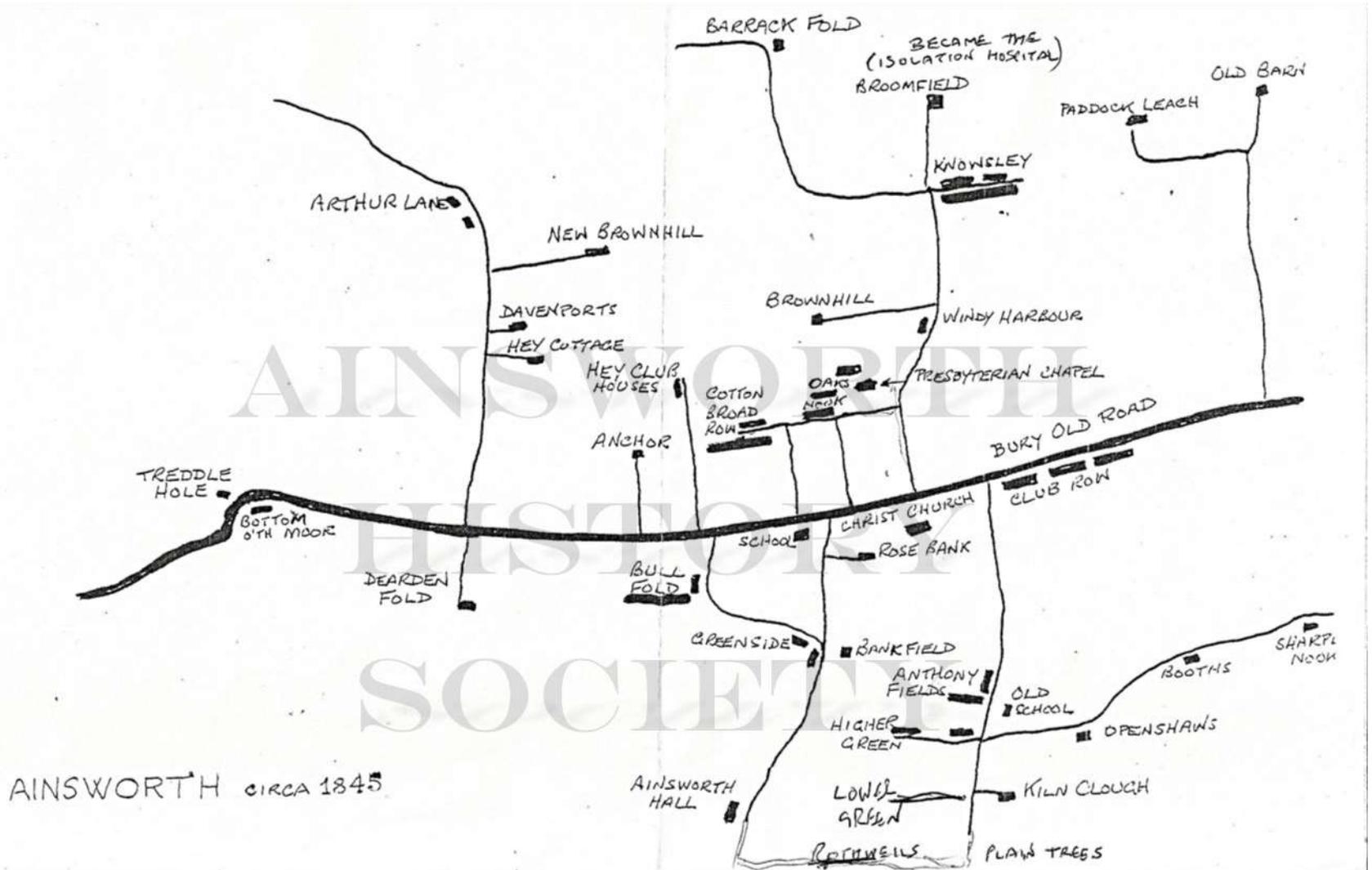
# Additional information from David

David has sent this map of the farms in the area circa 1845 and comments:



I found of interest it shows the row of cottages Cotton Broad Row where the school playing field is that followed the line of Well Street more or less I remember families living there that had children that where at school with me,

I noticed also the area we knew as Pim Hole is marked as Treddle Hole



AINSWORTH CIRCA 1845

It also shows Hey Cottage which I remember was where the bungalows now stand next to Sunny Bank.

Plants Farm top of Greenside what was the barn now a dwelling is thought to be 18th Century

He has also sent us this from the 1911 census

Brownhill Farm House: 1911: Joesph Heys (27) farmer; Ethel (24) and Lilian (6 months), with their farm labourere William Richards (17).

Brownhill: 1911: Robert Green (55) Gamekeeper, lived there

New Brownhill Farm: 1911: The family there named Walker. Edmund (28) was a cow-man; Lilly (24, nee Mort) was my mother's aunt. There were 2 children – Leonard (2) and Amy (11 months) When they moved from the farm they lived in the first detached house Ainsworth Hall Road after the vicarage



wedding of Arnold Walker son of Edmund Walker of New Brown Hill Farm

(question from group: were Jim Walker and brother Arnold both butchers?

Info: Jim owned a full row of houses on peter street at Radcliffe. Jim's son Steve lived at 24 bf road)

Cherry Tree Farm (bottom o'th Moor – Golf Links): 1911: John Green (35) a dairy farmer, Sarah (31); Agnes (4) and Sam (2)

Dearden Fold Farm: 1911: Ruth Heys (48) Dairy Farmer, William (25) and Walter (23)

Rothwell's Farm (2 properties):

1911: Robert Bullock (42) a farmer, with his family (Marion was 1 at this point)

and

Joseph Mort and his family

The 6 Bullcock sisters



Mary (95 this year)

Marion

Mildred

Elizabeth (lizzie)

Margaret Hannah (Annie)

Violet

I am pretty sure that, when a child, Kiln Clough was owned by Fred Shepherd but he lived at Lowercroft and I think a Clara (sister of Lizzie Hopkinson) and Cecil lived in the farm house. Fred Shepherd had the bungalow built opposite the entrance to Lower Green Farm and later the new house at Plain Trees Farm which he obtained

In 1950's David remembers Lower Green Farm - Joseph and Alice Parker and Joe their son



Wedding of Joe Parker. Parents, Joe and Alice Parker (second and third from the left) of Lower Green Farm. Bob Green of Old Barn Farm is Best Man next to Young Joe.

And at Plane Trees farm – the Greenhalgh brothers – 3 bachelors known as “the three peas”. When they retired and Fred shepherd took over the farm, they lived in the end cottage in the “set back” row on Bradley Fold Road

*This part was accompanied by an OS map from 1910*

He has provided this information about Davenport/Arthur Lane.  
written by Albert Law, who was born in Elton in 1914

“About 1922 the Corporation of Bolton purchased 2 adjoining small farms which incorporated 5 other cottages, for adaptation and use as small holdings by ex servicemen and their families

My father, Charles Law, then living in Bury, applied for one of these holdings and so we moved in at the end of June 1923

The larger farm was known as Arthur Lane Farm and the other as Davenports Farm

We occupied a cottage which was built onto the end of the farm away from the road – 6 Arthur Lane”

David thinks that this would be the land the Hornby family had when they moved to the semi detached small holding on Arthur Lane

Albert and Margaret (Earnshaw) married in 1945. Margaret lived at 19 Delph Lane, but David isn't sure if Albert was still at Arthur Lane

The Green family – Old Barn Farm

Bryan

Stephen

Jack.



Bob

Brenda