

# An Early History of Daisy Hill

Summary of a lecture by Robert Walmsley in 1957 given to members of St James' church. It should be noted that the facts quoted in this lecture are not referenced ie their origin cannot be verified readily.

Robert Walmsley (b 1895 d 1976) was a local historian.

Produced by Garth Ratcliffe



# Content of Presentation

- 1. Daisy Hill witches
- 2. Daisy Hill Corn Mill
- 3. Early Daisy Hill inhabitants





# Daisy Hill witches



In 1612 ten of the Pendle witches were hanged at Lancaster Jail.

- All lived in the region of Pendle Hill, between Clitheroe and Sabden.
- The most memorable names of the victims were “Demdike”, Chattox and Alice Nutter.
- It has been estimated that between 1600 and 1800 there were about 500 witch trials.



- “Bewitched” – “cast a magic spell on”
- “To influence by witchcraft”
- “wasted”





# A timeline of the charging of Daisy Hill witches

1666

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> , ISABELLA RIGBY of Hindley, bewitched ANN ROTHWELL, who as result was “wasted”.

On Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, she bewitched THOMAS ASHTON (wasted)

On Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, she bewitched JAMES GRUNDY (wasted)

1668

At Manchester Quarter Sessions, in April, AGNES HURST WIDOW OF Westhoughton and MARGARET HURST spinster are charged, at the instigation of the devil, and by divers evil diabolical and felonious practices, witchcraft, enchantments, charms and sorceries on and against THOMAS GREGORY so that he languished and died. They were charged with murder by witchcraft. The man’s widow, brother and other Daisy Hill folk were witnesses. The result of the trial is unknown.

1672

MARGARET GREEN (of Ince in Makerfield) on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> , bewitched THOMAS HODKINSON who languished until March 1674 when he died. She pleaded not guilty.



1845 OS map

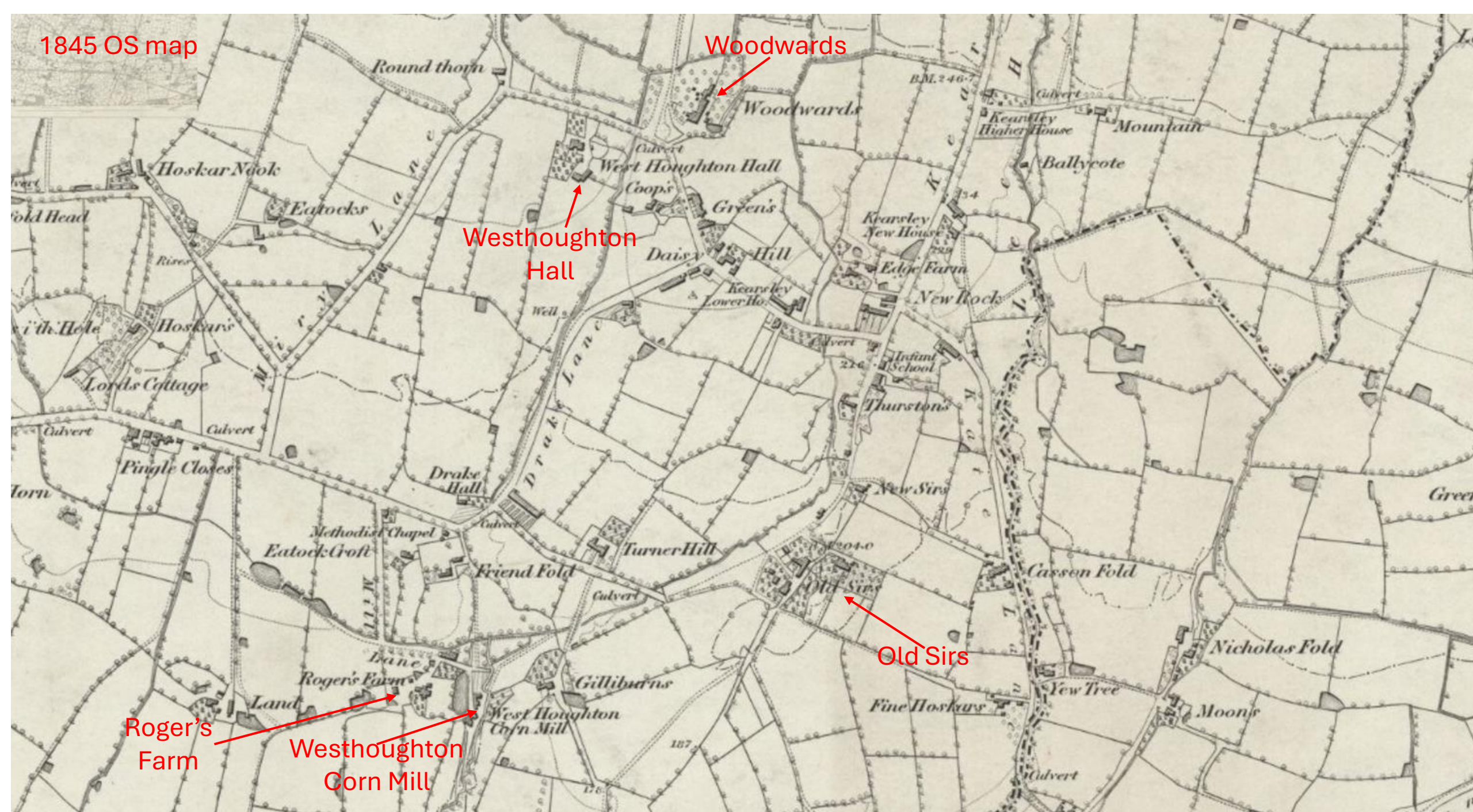
Woodwards

Westhoughton  
Hall

Old Sirs

Roger's  
Farm

Westhoughton  
Corn Mill





# Daisy Hill Corn Mill

1334

A HALGHTON water mill is referred to in “old documents” which may have been the corn mill.

1350

In 1350, AGNES, the widow of WILLIAM DE RYLANDS gave to her nephew “one windmill and one water mill in HALGHTON.

1539

There are references to SNYDLE WIND MILL.

It makes sense for the Daisy Hill corn mill to be located at the lowest point of Westhoughton where natural water flows would terminate.

Similarly, Snydle is the highest point of Westhoughton and so would be a natural location for a windmill.



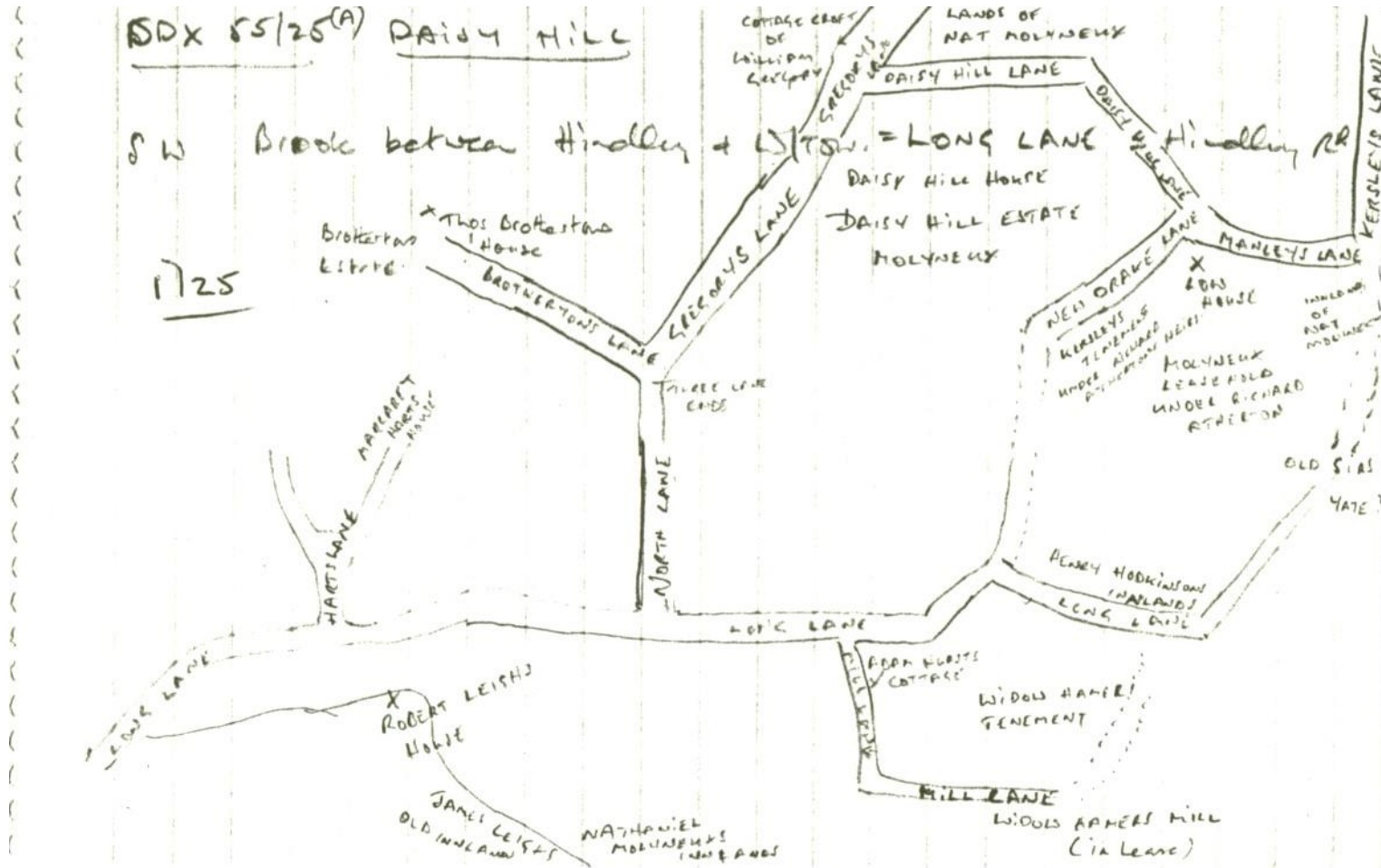


1845 OS map





This 1725 sketch map shows at the bottom, at the end of Mill Lane, widow Hamer's mill





# Daisy Hill Corn Mill



Located off Mill Lane, off Hindley  
Road (Drake Lane)



Corn Mill showing  
reservoir  
supplying the  
water wheel.





# Daisy Hill Corn Mill

1724

Mill owned by widow HAMER and lane leading to mill from HINDLEY ROAD shown on enclosure map of 1726.

1743

HULTON domestic accounts show £7 – 13 shillings for work done at Westhoughton lower mill.  
A “lower” mill suggests there must have been a “higher” mill and this could be identified as BRADLEIGH MILL (to which there were references dating back to the 1600’s)  
BRADLEIGH MILL was situated somewhere near the site of the old gas works in Bolton Road and supplied by water from the Dam at Central Park.

1763

A RICHARD HADDOCK had been a flour dealer at Over Hulton.

1824

A reference to RICHARD HADDOCK as a flour dealer

1840

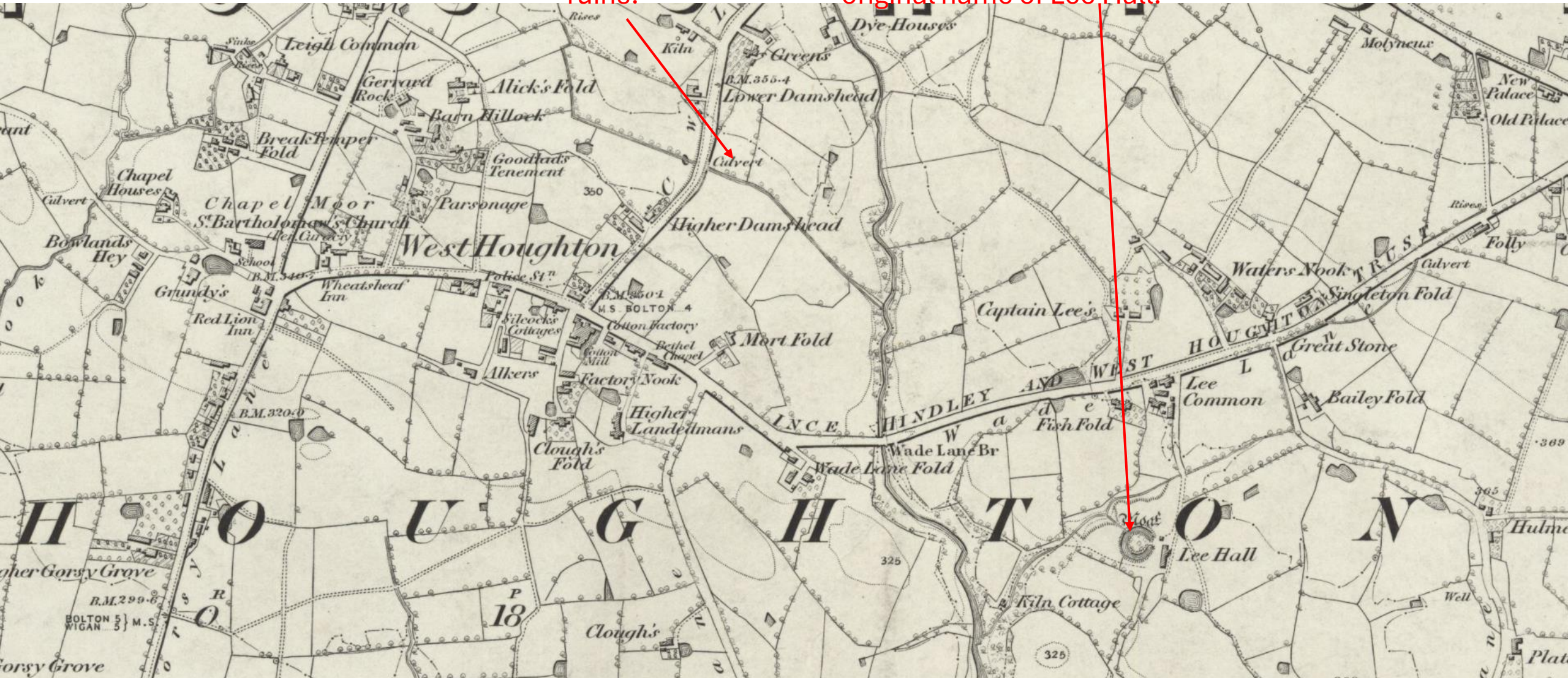
Corn mill owned by RICHARD HADDOCK, who subscribed to the new Daisy Hill school.



1845 OS  
map

Suggested site of  
Upper Mill – but no  
ruins!

The name of this mill is suggested to be Bradleigh Mill  
which connects to the name Bradleigh Hall, the  
original name of Lee Hall.





# Early Daisy Hill Inhabitants

1350

The first known list of Westhoughton inhabitants dates from 1350. HALGHTON was the lower side of Westhoughton, as distinct from the manors of Brinsop and Snyder. The names of residents are John le Sire and Richard le Sire and it has been speculated that these names are associated with the area "OLD SIRS"

1726

Old Sirs has been linked to the GREEN family for generations. George Green in 1757 was well off enough to send his son James as a scholar to Manchester Grammar School and his name is on the admissions register for 1757. In the early 1800's, Edward and James Green had premises in WH and M/CR and were carriers by land to Wigan, Leigh and Chorley and by water from Castlefield canal to Wigan and Ormskirk.

1787

George Green and Sons were fustian manufacturers of WH and had offices at Cross Street, M/CR.



# Early Daisy Hill Inhabitants

1845

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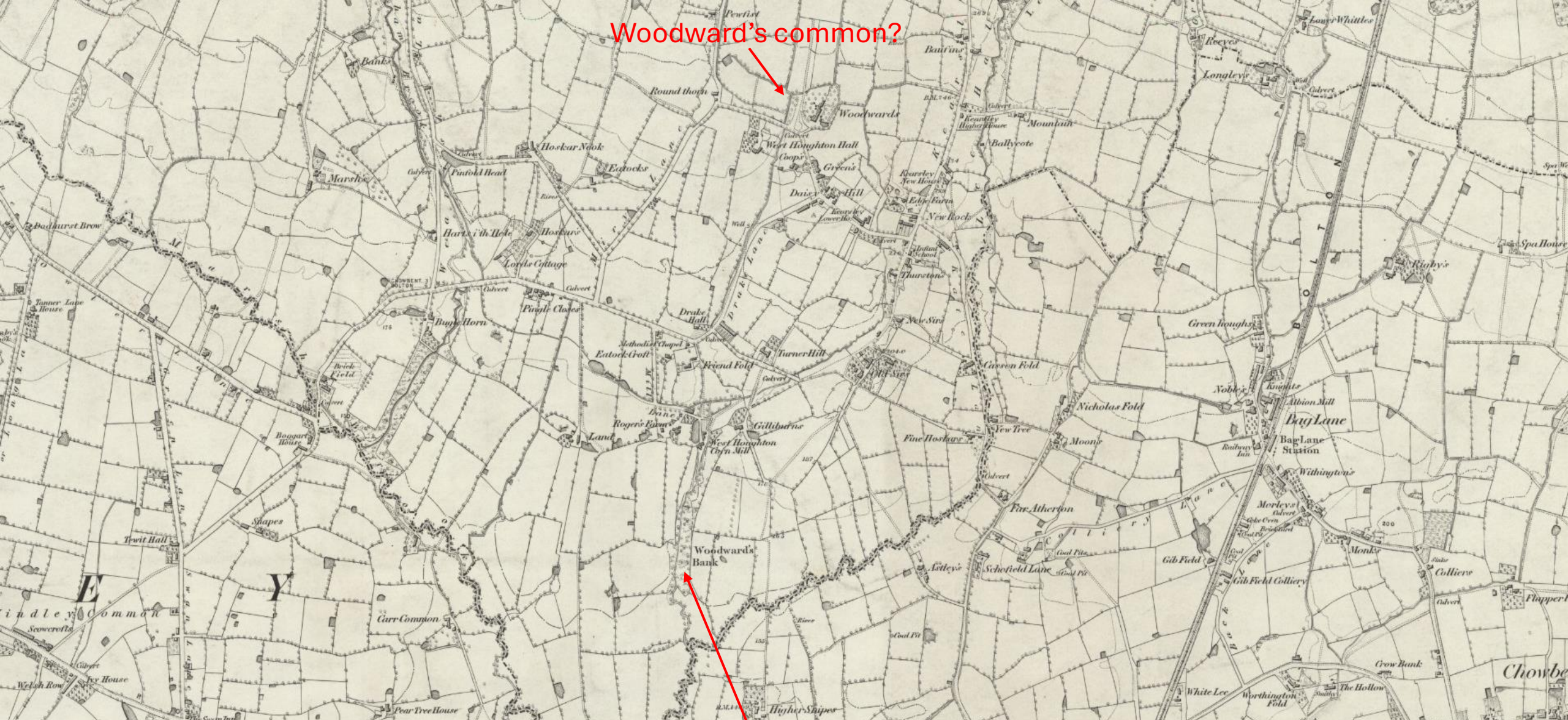
Woodwards farm, located at the bottom of France Street, had a moat round it suggesting that it was a house of some importance. Woodward is named on the OS map for 1845.

Woodwards farm was near to WH hall built in the 1600's and owned by Molyneux in 1800's.

Both Woodward's Farm and WH hall became part of the Wilbraham Estate which was owned by Lord Skemmersdale.

The Woodward's owned, in Daisy Hill, a Woodward's Common in 1630 and there are records of the family in Deane Parish Registers in the 1600's and in the registers of Leigh Parish Church. One entry at Deane refers to Davie Woodward of Deasie Hillock in 1660.





Woodward's common?

Woodward's Bank