

Marsden is criss-crossed by footpaths. Many of them were originally merely links between scattered houses and the centre of the village defined by the building of the church in Towngate in 1453. Others were part of a system of routes which passed through Marsden from all four points of the compass.

People undertaking these longer journeys would have needed rest and sustenance. In response to this need early alehouses were established in the front rooms of dwellings with the householder brewing his own beer in the back kitchen.

The name Smithy Holme was first recorded in 1670. It refers to a group of dwellings still present on Marsden Lane which was an ancient trackway leading to Halifax via Slaithwaite Hall. An inn called the **Shoulder of Mutton** occupied one of these cottages from the early 1700s but was possibly established as an unnamed alehouse before that.



Shoulder of Mutton

Other early long distance tracks included one which ran up the Wessenden Valley long before the reservoirs were built. There was an inn called **The Shepherd's Green** present near the top of this track from 1740. It ran as a beerhouse for a short time during reservoir building.

Rapes Highway ran across the moors from Clowes Gate Bridge, otherwise known as Eastergate Bridge to connect Marsden with Lancashire. The popular name is derived from Esther Schofield who ran an inn on the site near to the bridge. It was present from c1780 and demolished c1850.

The Travellers' Rest, on Meltham Road, was established around 1770 as a beerhouse and was housed in one of these cottages. The inn closed in 1915.



The Traveller's Rest

£1170.2s.11d was paid in compensation for the cancellation of the license.

At the top of **Gatehead** is a property with a 1712 date stone. Items found during renovations of this old house seemed to indicate that a farmer who lived there had brewed ale and sold it to passing travellers.



Gatehead

The traffic passing from Huddersfield to Lancashire via the Meltham Road, Towngate and Old Mount Road route took over from the other old tracks as the main highway through the village. The use of wheeled vehicles grew and it became necessary to provide better roads. To this end Meltham Road was turnpiked between 1758 and 1771. The improvement in the road surface encouraged more traffic and this, in turn, led to the growth of purpose-built inns. The newly improved road passed in front of the Travellers' Rest which continued trading but Gatehead was soon bypassed by the road continuing down into the village centre along Brougham Road.

4 A substantial inn with stables named **The George and Dragon** was built in the mid 1700s on the site now used as a car park opposite the mill on Brougham Road. It was delicensed c1850 and converted to residential use until being demolished in 1935.

The Red Lion was built as a coaching inn in the mid 1700s. It was a substantial property in Market Place covering a quarter of an acre. The original frontage was replaced in 1911 by the present one which is recessed so as to line up with the buildings on either side and to provide a forecourt and pavement. The building remains and has been converted into flats and offices.



The Red Lion

The Two Dutchmen, Towngate mid 1700s - 1968, was believed to have been built as a home for two Dutch brothers before being converted into an inn around 1807. John France, a Marsden brewer, bought the property in 1888.



The Two Dutchmen

The photograph shows a 1745 date stone over the doorway, however there is also a date stone with two tulips and the date 1762 which was saved when the properties in Towngate, including the pub, were being demolished in 1968. In 1820, Dutch Harry, husband of the landlady, was the last person to be put in the stocks as a punishment for his drunken behaviour.



The White Hart, Towngate. This is believed to be the oldest building still standing in Marsden. It is certainly the oldest inn and was used by travellers for over 200 years before the first turnpike road was made. In 1686 it had 6 guest beds and stabling for 8 horses. It was the local for Parson Bellas, a man of easy temperament and fond of lively company, and for Blind Jack of Knaresborough when he came to Marsden to build that part of the turnpike road which ran up Old Mount Road. The building was saved from demolition by considerable repairs being made in the 1970s.



The White Hart

At the top of Towngate stood another old coaching inn called **The Old Ram**. It was built in 1725 and had extensive stabling and a large brewhouse. The landlord also had the privilege of getting peat and bedding from Pule Hill which was doubtless used to heat the inn and provide bedding in the stables. The Old Ram closed in 1926 and was demolished to allow Church Lane to be widened and the churchyard to be enlarged. When its license was suspended £2380 compensation was paid to the owner.



The Old Ram

The gradient of Old Mount Road made it difficult for wheeled traffic and between 1779 and 1781 led to a new extension of Meltham Road being built. Instead of dropping down into the village along Brougham Road it continued along Carrs Road and up Mount Road before crossing over Standedge. This new road provided an impetus for the building of large coaching inns along Carrs Road.

The **Great Western** was built in 1839 and stands at the top of Standedge. It is said to have been named after one of the two steamships to cross the Atlantic in April, 1838 and the original signboard with a painting of a steamship was stored in the cellar at one time. The Great Western was delicensed and converted to residential use in 2015.



The Great Western

The **Eagle's Nest**, now called the **Carriage House**, continues to trade. It was originally a transport cafe and became a public house in the early 1970s. The building was present in 1898.



The Carriage House

The building of the canal, reservoirs and railway attracted large numbers of itinerant navvies and miners into the village. They were accommodated in lodging houses and temporary huts placed near to the workings. Beerhouses were established for the duration of a particular project with the buildings reverting to their original uses once the workforce had moved on. There were two such properties, The Gardener's Arms at Clough Head and the Miner's Rest at Intake Head, both on the hillside above Warrington Terrace on Manchester Road.

Near to the bridge over the canal at Tunnel End there was a beerhouse named the **Tunnel**. Its name was changed to the **Three Tunnels** with the completion of the second railway tunnel. The inn was relocated further up the pathway and, by 1889, had become known as the **Junction** only to be given another name, **Tunnel End Inn**, in 1989. It closed for business in 2013 and is currently being converted into two houses.



The Junction

The **Shakespeare** started life on Peel Street in 1868 in an old building which occupied the site now used for a bus shelter.



The Shakespeare

In 1900 it was sold to Joshua Tetley and Son who built the present pub in 1933 and demolished the old property.

The **Swan Inn** was built around 1838. The present frontage replaced the original one in 1926 when Bentley and Shaw acquired the property. At the time when the inn was built the road on which it stands was called Pinfold Lane, part of another old track which continued on up the hillside parallel to the present day Station Road. John France bought the property in c1888.



The Swan Inn

The **Railway Inn** opened in 1865 and remains in business today. It was built on the new Station Road which replaced Pinfold Lane.



The Railway

John France established a brewery at Higher Green Owlers in 1868. The obsolete brewing buildings have been largely demolished, but the brewing vats, or 'Yorkshire Squares' are still identifiable. He moved to Hey Green in 1887 where he continued brewing beer under the name **Hay Green cum Dean Brewery**.

Aknowledgments

All photographs are taken from the Marsden Photographic Archive www.marsdenphotoarchive.info with the exception of the following, 1, 2, 3, 10, 17 - Judi Thorpe. 16, 18, 21, 22, 24 - Arthur Lomax. 20 - Keith Hemsley

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Marsden History Group



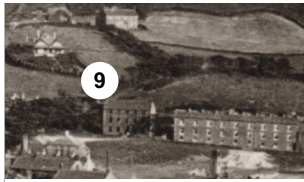
Inns, Alehouses, Victualling and Tippling Houses in the village of Marsden

Licensed to sell Ale, Beer and other
Liquors and strong Waters

Judi Thorpe 2018

www.marsdenhistory.co.uk

The Blue Lion was built on Carrs Road around 1780. It is said to have housed the infantry who were stationed in the village to protect mill properties at the time of the Luddite riots in 1812. After the arrest of the protesters against the mechanisation of the cropping process the inn was boycotted by locals and had to close in 1813 due to lack of custom.



The Blue Lion

The building was renamed **Ready Carr House** and became the home and workplace of Enoch Taylor, founder of the Marsden Iron Foundry and famous for being the manufacturer of cropping frames. Following the demise of the Iron Foundry the premises were bought by John Edward Crowther and incorporated into his textile business based in Bank Bottom Mill. The building was demolished in 1971 having had a dangerous building order placed on it.

The **Old New Inn** acquired 'old' in its name when the new New Inn was built on Manchester Road in 1839. It was a substantial coaching inn with ten coaches daily stopping for a change of horses. In 1841, following extensive improvements, it was advertised to be let and had stabling for 24 horses, 4 sitting rooms, 7 bed rooms a commodious bar, kitchen, cellars and an abundant and never failing supply of excellent water. It closed in 2011 has now been converted into two homes.



The Old New Inn

The George was built as a coaching inn around 1793. After its closure as an inn the property was renamed Ottiwells House and was the home of William Horsfall, owner of the adjacent Ottiwells Mill. He was murdered by the Luddites on his way home from Huddersfield. The property was acquired by Crowthers and demolished by them around 1910 to make way for a bowling green for the enjoyment of their work force.



Ottiwells House

Betty Shaw was the landlady of the **Hare and Hounds** for many years from c1875 – c1915. During her stewardship navvies working on the reservoirs were regular customers. When she increased the price of a pint by 1/2d they took umbrage and dragged a shed from Slaithwaite. They erected it on Old Mount Road and the Puleside Workingmen's Club opened for business. It remains on the same site to this day, known fondly as The Cot. Following its closure as a public house in 2002 the building was converted into residential accommodation.



Hare and Hounds

The Moorcock is believed to have been the meeting place for the Luddites in 1812. The pub was delicensed in 1919 but continued to entertain visitors by converting into a tea room specialising in ham and egg teas.



The Moorcock

The last road to be turnpiked was the A62, Manchester Road. It was opened in 1839 along the route that we use today and resulted in the building of a significant number of new purpose-built public houses along its path.

14 Working from east to west the first inn was **The Rising Sun** which was present in 1851 but had closed prior to 1891. It was demolished and the site used to build the present house called Park View.

The Olive Branch has a 1769 date stone from the original building built onto the rear wall of the present one. It is believed to have been named after the Olive Branch Petition which, in 1775, was submitted to the king by loyal colonists in an attempt to avoid the American War of Independence.



The Olive Branch

Refugees fleeing anti-Semitic persecution on continental Europe travelled across country from Hull to Liverpool by special trains provided in 1873. The very poorest had to walk the 150 miles and came through the Colne Valley. They were welcomed by the landlord of the Olive Branch who gave them shelter for the night in his stable.

In the centre of the village there were two substantial hostelries, **The British Queen** and the **New Inn** both built in 1839 on either corner of Peel Street and Manchester Road. The British Queen closed and, by 1911 had become home to the village doctor with the surgery in the attached cottage. The property was renamed Ingfield House and remains a private house.



The New Inn

From its beginning the **New Inn** was a flourishing enterprise employing ostlers and live-in female servants.

The doorway to the left of the front entrance opened onto a staircase which led up to the first floor public hall used for dances, meetings and all manner of other gatherings.

Further up Manchester Road is the **Shepherd's Boy**, built in 1839 and, since closing as a public house in 1920, the property has been a private house.



The Shepherd's Boy

Continuing up Manchester Road is **The Coach and Horses**, also built in c1839. Landlords of this pub, in common with many other publicans, combined innkeeping with farming.



The Coach and Horses

After closure, in 2000, the property was converted into an outdoor pursuits centre. It is now a pair of houses.

Key to Public Houses

1. Shoulder of Mutton
2. The Traveller's Rest
3. Gatehead
4. The George & Dragon
5. The Red Lion
6. The Two Dutchmen
7. The White Hart
8. The Old Ram Inn
9. The Blue Lion
10. The Old New Inn
11. The George
12. The Hare & Hounds
13. The Moorcock
14. The Rising Sun
15. The Olive Branch
16. The New Inn
17. The Shepherd's Boy
18. The Coach & Horses
19. The Great Western
20. The Carriage House
21. The Junction
22. The Shakespeare
23. The Swan Inn
24. The Railway

Tracks and roads

- Pre 1760
Post 1760

