

DOWN YOUR WAY

LAW-BREAKERS AND SOLDIERS

DALTON: THE PLACE

Dalton, contrary to what many believe (the history of Dalton is often overlooked in favour of an analysis of Ravensknowle and what is now the Tolson Museum), has a long and colourful history beginning as long ago as the tenth century.



Robert Huntriss Tolson

Dalton was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 - the tax motivated survey commissioned by William the Conqueror that listed landholdings and resources. However, unlike those other areas, Dalton was not listed as 'waste' (uncultivated or unusable land) and there was economic activity: a plough was being worked and the land was worth ten shillings.

From 1100 onwards, Dalton's population grew at a steady pace. In the early fourteenth century mention is made in public records of the Blackburn family. The Blackburns were a prominent family in Huddersfield up to the seventeenth century and owned property and land in the town centre as well as Dalton.

The records in which they appear, however, do not show the family in a good light because they were often offenders against local by-laws.



Tolson Museum

In 1454 William Blackburn was accused of causing problems for wayfarers because he had not cut his hedges. Ten years later Thomas Blackburn was in trouble for depasturing Dalton Common with his cattle.

Another relative, Richard Blackburn, committed a graver offence in 1490 when he was apparently involved in an 'affray' with two Dalton tenants.

It is not known whether this 'law abiding' family actually lived in Dalton but what is certain is that they never attended any of the hearings regarding their alleged crimes. The result of this was, however, favourable to Dalton's coffers as the Blackburns were often fined for non-attendance as well as their crimes!

It was during Queen Elizabeth I's reign (1558-1601) that the population of Dalton began increasing. The result was the need for more houses.

Some families took matters into their own hands; not being able to afford the luxury of two houses they simply divided up one house to accommodate two families. Richard Dyson of Carr Green did just that, with his portion of the house being called 'the Old House' while his son's quarters were awarded the imaginative title, 'the New House'.



During this period, Catholic Richard Langley, resident at Dives House, Dalton, was hung, drawn and quartered because of his religion.

Langley was one of many Catholics executed during Elizabeth's reign (Elizabeth, on taking the throne in 1558, restored Protestantism after her half-sister, Mary, had attempted to undo the Reformation their father, Henry VIII, had begun) – the most famous being the Queen's cousin Mary, Queen of Scots.

By the 1700s Dalton, along with nearby Moldgreen, was a well-established and growing community; the Brooks, Hirsts, Spiveys, Blackburns and Greenwoods are all recorded as living in Dalton.

However, it was only during the latter half of the eighteenth century, with the advent of the Industrial Revolution, that the Dalton we know today began to take shape. Prior to this Dalton had been a village in the small market town of Huddersfield.

The Industrial Revolution changed everything; Huddersfield became the centre of a thriving industry and by 1834 Dalton was described as a ‘populous manufacturing township’.

Dalton today is still expanding - many of the mills have now disappeared to make way for new housing to be built (for example, Greenside Mill which used to be the home of George Wilson & Co, silk spinners and later Dyson Hall and Co, makers of pile fabrics is now home to 149 new houses).



Dalton is now a place safe for Catholics, and if there are any descendants of the Blackburns, it is hoped they cut their hedges and no longer take their cattle to Dalton Common!

Indeed, the Dalton we know today can be proud that its industrial legacy to the area comprises not only converted mills and historically-named housing estates, but also the town's major museum.

PUBS & PLATOONS

DALTON (THE PLACE): 5 KEY FACTS

1. Born on 6 November 1894 in Kirkheaton, Robert Huntriss Tolson was one of six sons and daughters of Mr Whiteley and Mrs Jessy Tolson. When war broke out Robert Tolson was living in Leeds with his wife, Zoe. During the First World War he led No.2 Platoon of 'A' Company in the attack over the top on the 1 July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme, during which he was killed.

At first he was posted as missing but it was confirmed on 12 July that he had been killed. James Martin Tolson, Robert's brother, was also killed in action during the war. In 1919 Legh Tolson, Robert and James' uncle, made a gift of his house (Ravensknowle Hall) to Huddersfield Corporation as a tribute and lasting memorial to his two nephews. This is now known as the 'Tolson Museum'.



2. Prior to the 20th Century it was normal practice to hold inquests in public houses, often in view of the body or bodies. On 30 January 1877 an Inquest was held at the Grove Pub into the death of a 46-year-old nightwatchman who hung himself from a beam in a weaving shed.

3. Public houses were also used as meeting places and on 8th March 1873 The Committee of the Weavers Protection Association held a meeting at the Waterloo Inn, Dalton to which the whole of the handloom weavers in the area were invited.

4. In 1591 John Appleyard of Dalton decided the time had come to hand over the family home to his son, George Appleyard (this was common practice in those days). John was, however, very specific about his expectations thereafter; the deeds stated that he wanted to 'be honestlie and sufficientlie kept and maynteined at the nowe dwelling house of the said George'.



John must have feared that George and his wife would not provide for him or would even evict him and this is evident in his request that he be provided with 'meat, drink, lodgings and apparel during his natural life'!

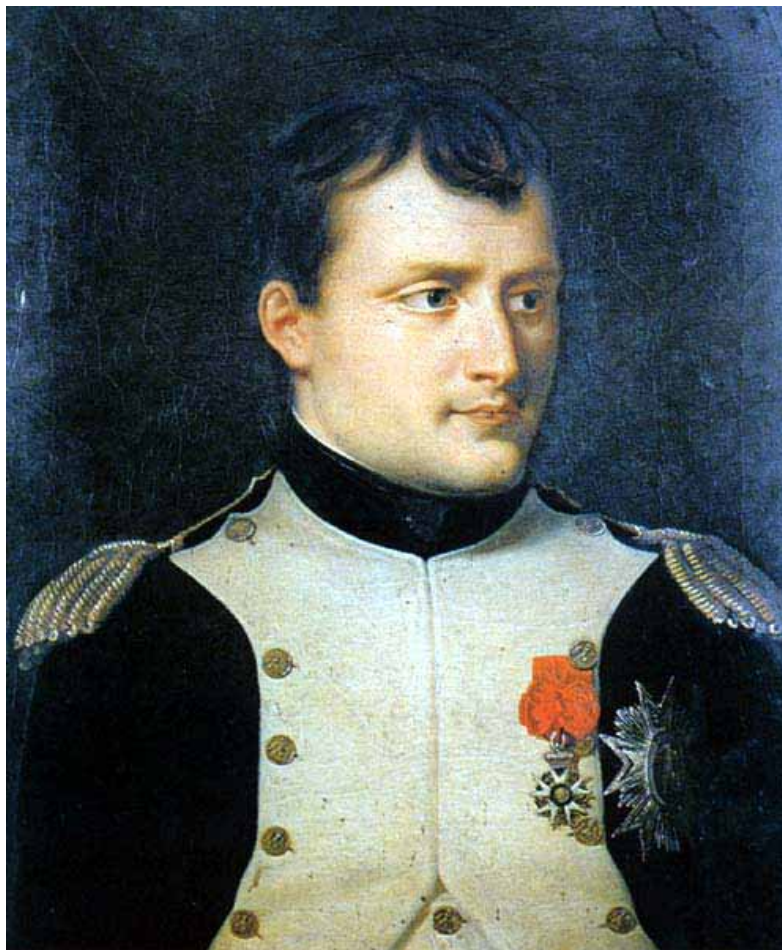
5. Various members of the Langley family (a prominent family in Dalton in the fifteenth century) held the office of Constable for Dalton. The Constable of a village was an important person whose duties included supervision of the night watchmen and fire fighting if required. He was also responsible for keeping the peace – a demanding role given the lack of paid police or officials.

BOOKS & BATTLES

DALTON – KEY DATES BEFORE THE CRICKET CLUB WAS FOUNDED

1086 Dalton is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

1586 Richard Langley of Dalton (described as an ‘ardent Catholic’) is hung, drawn and quartered in York.



1815 Battle of Waterloo.

1819 Waterloo Hotel is built.

180 NOT OUT!

KEY DATES IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF CRICKET IN KIRKLEES

1825: Lascelles Hall Cricket Club founded.

1842: Dalton play Sheffield for £30.

1867: *Huddersfield Examiner* publishes scores or reports on 209 matches featuring 107 different teams.



1868: Fartown ground leased by Huddersfield St. Johns C.C.. Savile Ground, Dewsbury, hosts game between All England XI and United All England XI.

1873: Batley legend Louis Hall makes Yorkshire bow.

1883: Lumb Cup and Heavy Woollen Cup born.

1886: Huddersfield Cricket Association is formed.

1887-9: Dewsbury Savile C.C. win hat-trick of Heavy Woollen Cup titles.

1892: 10 Clubs take part in inaugural Huddersfield & District Cricket League competition.

ANGLICANS & METHODISTS

OTHER DALTON CRICKET CLUBS

Dalton St. Paul's CC

Played in the local evening league.
Finished bottom of Section Three in 1958.



John Wesley, the founder of Methodism

Dalton Wesleyans CC