

Historical Notes

THE 'OTHER' CHURCH. The parish church of St. Lawrence dates from the 13th. Century but many people in the village believe that there was once a second church. Various wills of the early 16th. Century make reference to a church of St. Gregory (possibly a lady chapel?). A brickyard was operated at Salem in the last century and tradition has it that gravestones and human bones were dug up in a field known as Church Close.

THE CHAPELS. The United Reform Chapel, built in 1771, is the oldest Non-Conformist Chapel in the County, surviving in its original form. The Baptist Chapel was built in 1846 and occupies the site of a former public house, the 'Bishop Blaze'.

INDUSTRY. Bishop Blaze is the patron saint of woolcombers and until the late 18th. Century the woollen industry flourished in the village which was noted for a type of worsted cloth known as 'harateens'. The Industrial Revolution had a disastrous effect on the village and there was a period of extreme poverty until the shoe industry developed from the 1820's onwards.

MILLING. For several centuries the village boasted two watermills. The lower mill closed when the railway was built nearby in 1881. The upper mill continued to operate right up until the 1960's. The last surviving of at least four windmills, stood at the top of Hannah Hill. It was demolished in 1914.

CORONATION POLE. A Coronation Pole was first erected in the Market Place (once known as The Green) for George III's Coronation in 1761. Several poles have been raised since to replace those damaged in storms or, as in 1832, by discontented villagers. The last one fell in a storm in 1935. It was replaced by the existing lamp post surmounted by a crown.

A Walkers' Code

1. Always keep to the path to avoid trespass. If the path is obstructed you are allowed to seek a reasonable way round the obstruction, taking care to avoid causing damage. Please report the obstruction to the highway authority.
2. Straying stock can cause damage or spread disease so please close gates.
3. To avoid harm or distress to farm animals and wildlife it is best to leave dogs at home. If you have to bring them they should be kept on a leash.
4. If your route takes you onto a road, keep to the right, facing oncoming traffic and use the verge if one exists.
5. Always wear suitable clothing and footwear for the season. Allow plenty of time to complete your chosen walk.
6. Every piece of land in the countryside belongs to someone. Please treat it with respect and other walkers will be made welcome.

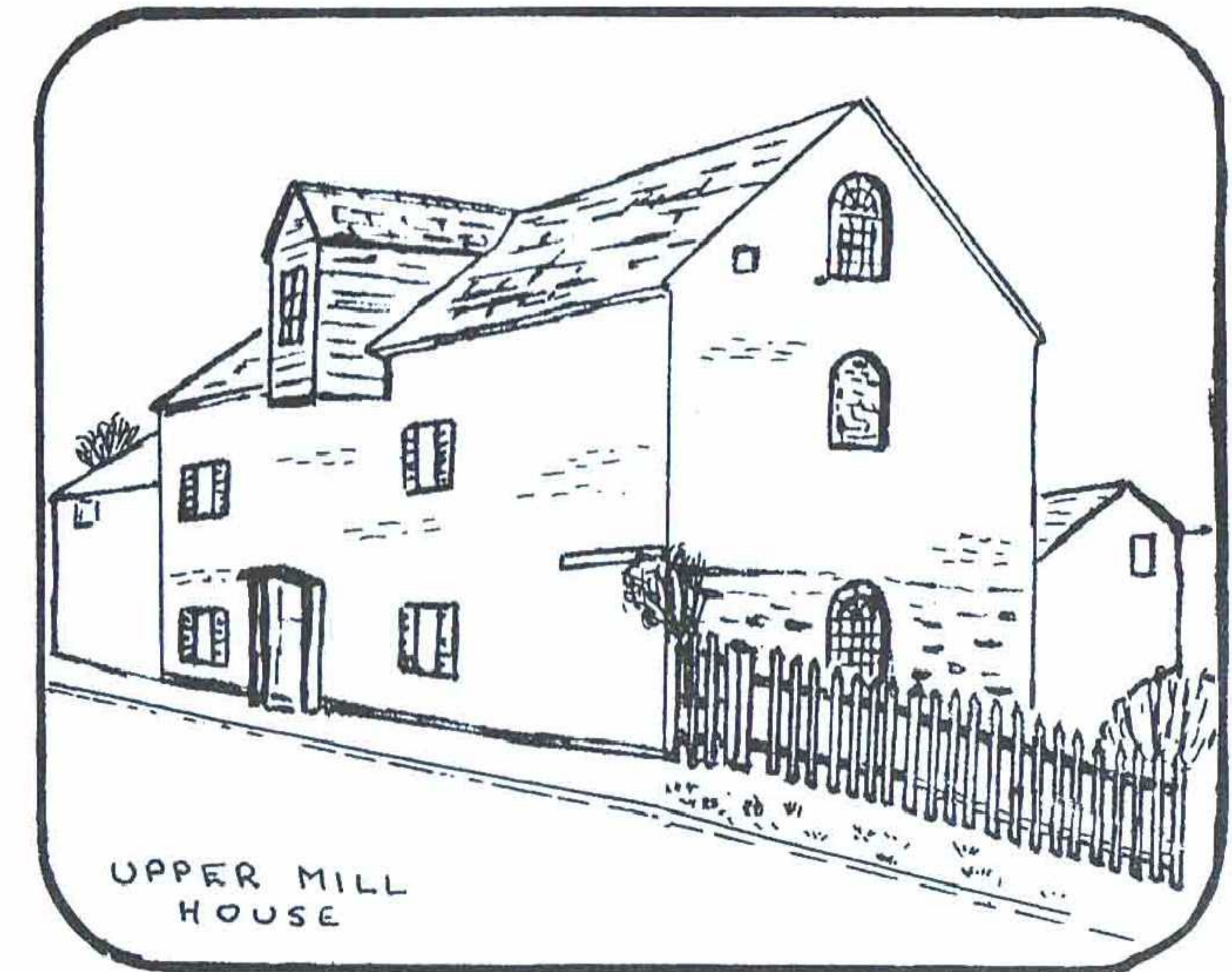
FIELD NAMES Many old field names still persist and some probably date from Anglo-Saxon times. 'BOWKLE' or 'BOWKWELL' may derive from the same personal name as Buckby. It would originally have referred to a stream rather than a field. The occurrence of 'Black' in a name sometimes indicates evidence of an early presence and in 'BLACK KNARBOROUGH' scatters of broken pottery have been found which point to a Roman occupation. 'BROKEN BACK' is a more obvious name and refers to the one distinctly deeper furrow which runs across the field.

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Countryside Walks

Long Buckby



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