

Dear Gillian Benson Chairman Councillors Parishioners historians et al

It was with great interest and excitement when I read about the Catterall Mill Race Sluice Gate Project

Incidentally my brother in law John Towers was the Chairperson of Catterall Parish Council when a special levy was struck to allow council to purchase what is now much valued The Queen Elizabeth II Playing field

### **Re Crossley ownership and use of Catterall Worsted Mill which became a Bobbin Mill and Catterall Iron Works**

As mentioned by John Waite in the "sluice gate Project" My great great grandfather Thomas Crossley bought Catterall Mill in the early eighteen nineties

From family records and research at Lancashire County Council Bow Lane Preston I discovered the Crossleys of Catterall ownership and use of Catterall Mill (Bobbin then Iron Works) Wyre Bank ( a Mill Owners Cottage) Willow House and adjacent Workshop Mill Ponds Mill Race and River Calder Sluice Gate

Thomas Crossley (1835 - 1919) was a textile engineer roller repairer and maker at Brock Bottoms and Catterall when living at Shelly Row (formerly Mint Cake Row) he purchased from Lady Shelly Estate Wyre Bank Catterall Mill Willow House Mill Ponds and Mill Race to the recently rebuilt sluice Gate

Five generations of Crossley Textile Engineers namely Thomas (1835 - 1919) and his son John (1863-1914) his son my father Arthur (1896 - 1958) and my self and brother Arthur William (1923 - 2009) and his son Paul lived in Catterall at Wyre Bank and or Willow House and worked Catterall Iron Works or the Workshop next to Willow House Paul's son Simon is the sixth generation of Crossleys now living in Catterall

During the depression Catterall Iron Works declined and after WW 11 part of the building was sublet to makers of trailers and exhaust pipes

My father Arthur Crossley was a textile engineer and poultry farmer of hens turkeys ducks and geese which fed from the Mill Ponds and housed in cabins on the field between the Mill Race and the meandering River Calder We also ran cattle on this field and adjusted a donkey from Blackpool called Mary

Due to the decline after WW 11 of the Textile Industry Arthur built a precise engineering workshop next to Willow House and machined car components for Rover Ford Daimler et al

My father and Ernie Collinson were friends and we machined a component of an aluminium milking machine he had designed

In the 1970s siblings Arthur William, Alice, Hilda and Winston owned Wyre Bank Willow House Mill Pond and Mill Race Late 1970's Arthur William became the sole owner and sold part of the Mill Race to the cement manufacture Brierley on Catterall Gate Lane

Over the years Collinson bought most of the Crossley real estate

In 2010 Collinson demolished the Mill Owners Cottage Wyre Bank and replaced it with a Car Park

Paul Crossley and family now live in Willow House and continue the Crossley Engineer dynasty started in 1834 by direct ascendent James Crossley (1804-1873)

I hope this information is of interest and value

Regards John Winston Crossley Sydney Australia

*Winston Crossley*

## **John Winston Crossley(1940-?)**

**J W Crossley** B Sc(Hons) London; TTTC Manchester; Dip Ed University of Technology Sydney;  
M Sc (Physics) Macquarie Sydney; M A (Education and Work) Macquarie Sydney;  
Dip Comp University of Technology Sydney; MInstP, Ch Phy UK.

Enclosed Maps      1847 Catterall Worsted Mill and Pymont Works  
                                 1896 Catterall Iron Works Wyre Bank Willow House and Mill Pond

Photo copies                      Mill Owners Cottage Wyre Bank in 2010 the year it was demolished

My mothers ( with the Healy sisters was an active member of the  
Kirkland Womens Institute for 19 years) 1966 painting of the Iron Works  
as it was in the early 1920's

Aerial photographs      1966 Wyre Bank Catterall Iron Works demolished 1999

1960 Willow House Workshop Tanyard Cottages and Drying  
sheds demolished in 1979 Confluence of River Wyre and Calder  
Over grown Mill Pond some time come Goose Pond and Mill Race



1847

1- 11 1

Sluice Gate

Wheat Mill  
Wheat Mill  
Wheat Mill

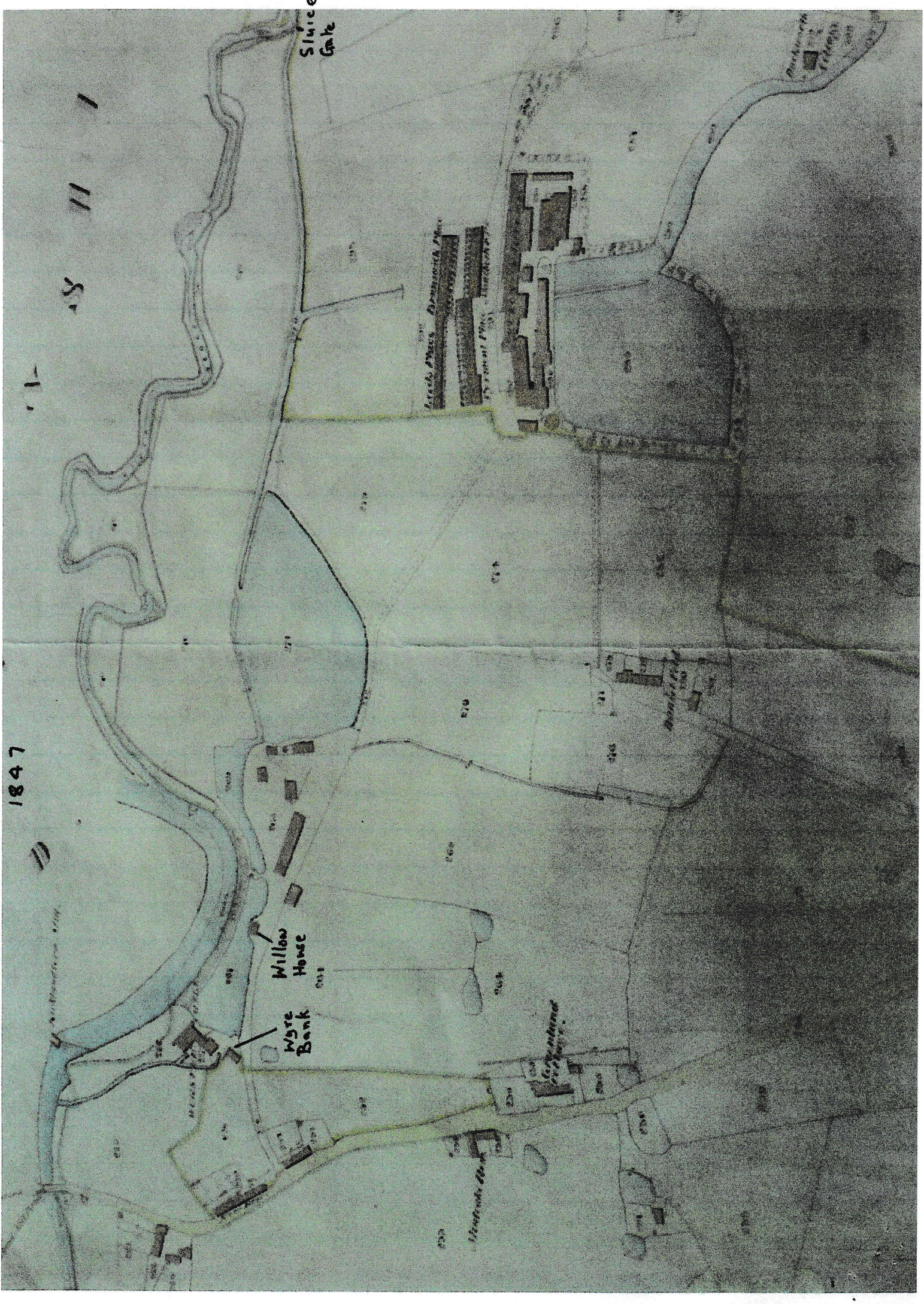
Willow House

Wye Bank

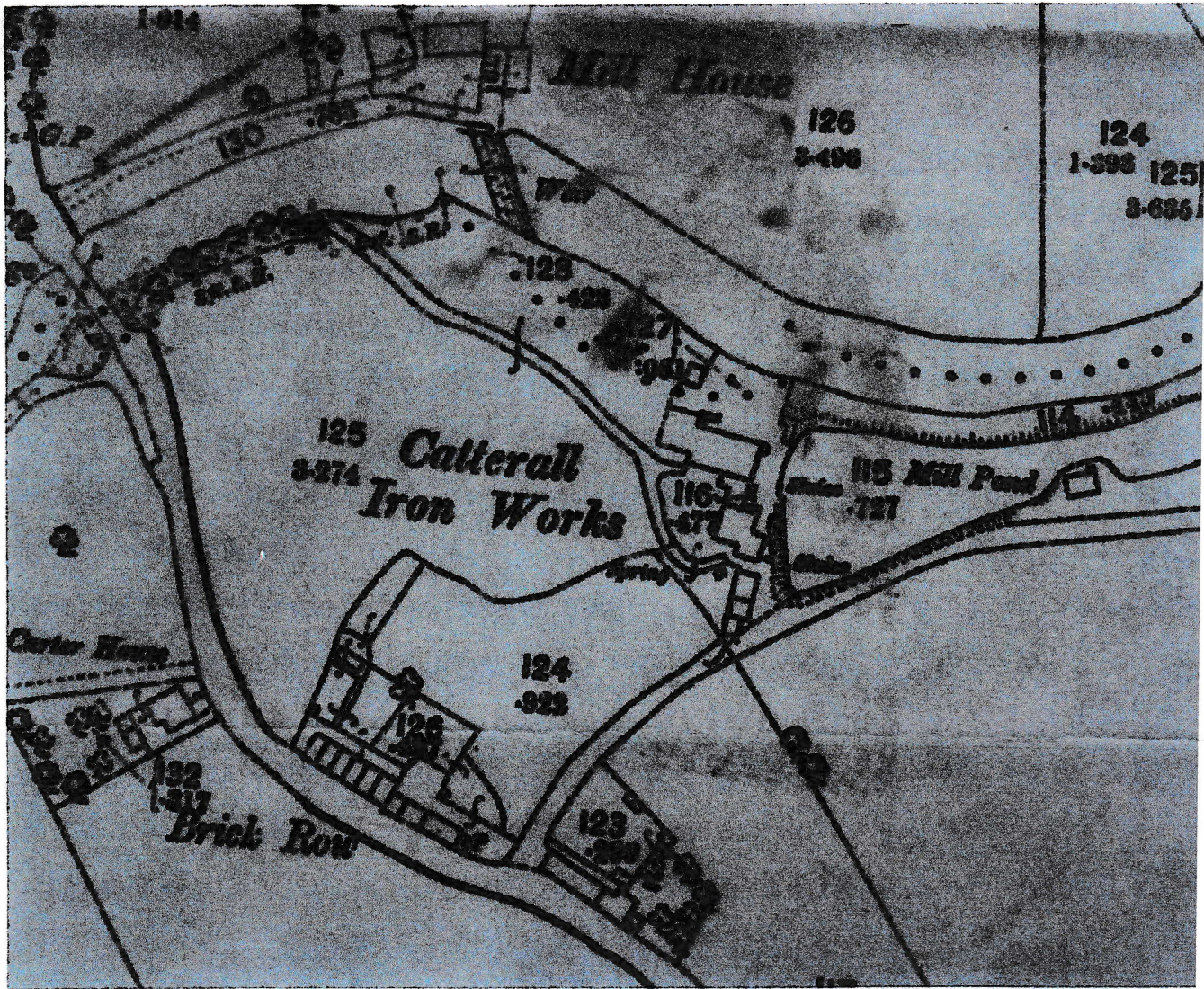
Wye Mill

Wye Mill

Wye Mill







1896 Catterall Iron Works Wyre Bank is between Spring and lower Sluice labeling and Willow House is to the right Mill Pond label





Mill Owners Cottage Wyre Bank 2010

ARTHUR WILLIAM LAST ABODE d 27/12/2009

1 month before  
demolition in  
2010









photo 1966 D • DEMOLISHED



