

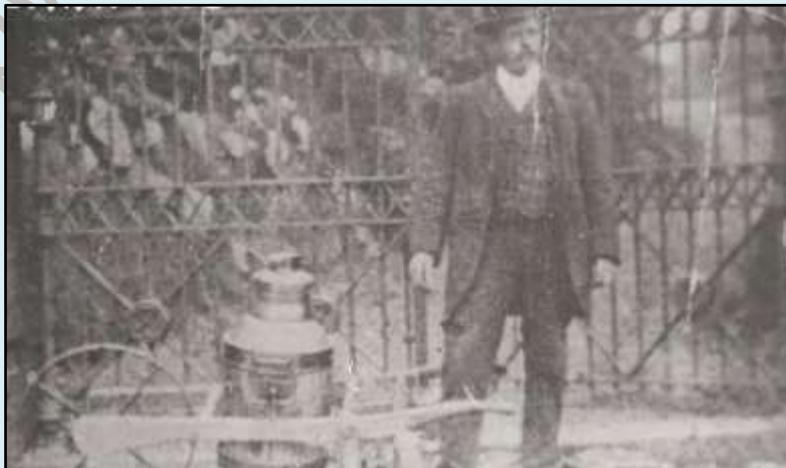
# Bankside Hall



Bankside Hall was home to the Ormerod family of Waterbarn Mill and was possibly built by them before being bought by John Dawson who it is said rebuilt parts of the house but never lived in it. As mentioned above Bankside became the home of James Smith a sizer from Burnley who came to live in Bacup, in 1834 and built Tong Mills.

James and his wife Ann had a large family of eleven children but only eight survived, three of the surviving sons going into business with their father.

James died from heart failure at Bankside in 1844 and was interred at Mount Pleasant Wesleyan churchyard.



Outside the hall.

Bankside was occupied for a time by Dr William Stewart his son also called William also a doctor and a daughter Ann. Born in Ayrshire in 1815 the year of Waterloo he was for many years the Parish doctor and Vaccination Officer for Newchurch and for the part of Bacup situated in Spotland He was also the Factory Doctor, and it was on his say so that many half timers got their certificates to work. Dr Stewart worked for both the rich and poor residents of Bacup visiting his patients on horseback then later in a Hansom, Dr Stewart died on August 4th in 1894 at the home of his daughter in Cheetham Hill, Manchester.

She had married Dr Stewarts one time assistant Dr Roger. In 1889 Bankside House and grounds came up for sale when the owner John Dawson had died, twenty years earlier and owing to a dispute between the heirs-at-law the property had been thrown into chancery and had been the subject of litigation throughout the previous twenty years being rented out by various families, already mentioned. The house and grounds were bought by Henry Maden for the sum of £1,900.

It had been Henry's intention that his son should live at the house and part of the farm land purchased at the same time namely, Top'o t'bank, Slip Inn and Bankside farm should be used for a public recreation ground but he died before his ideas could be carried out. Young Dr Stewart lived at Bankside following the death of his father with his wife Lucy and three servants when he retired at the end of 1908 Dr Shaw took over the practice, and eventually took over a junior partner in the form of Dr F. J. Thornton, of Brighouse Yorkshire.

