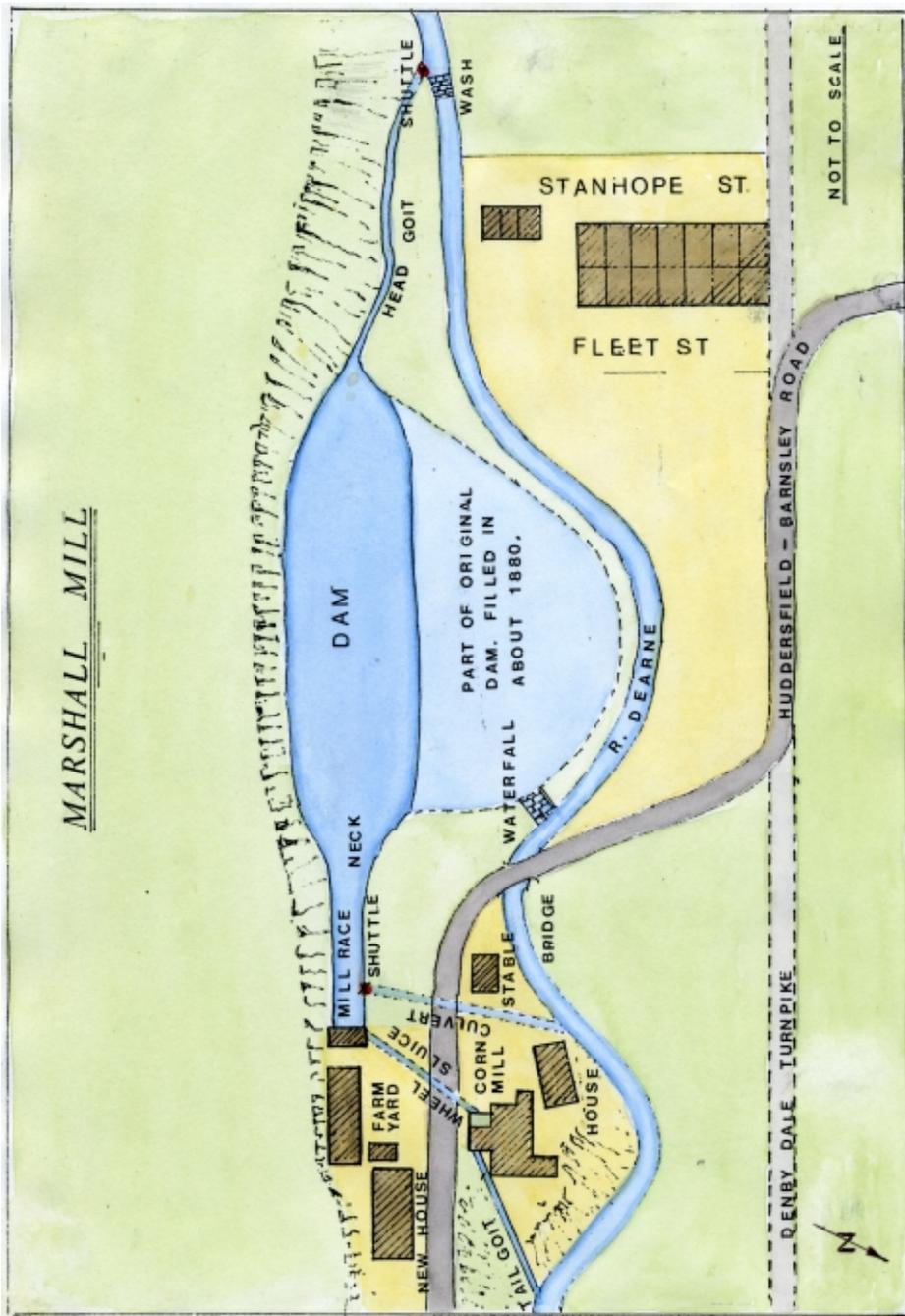


Know your village :
Scissett in times past



**REMEMBERING
MARSHALL MILL**

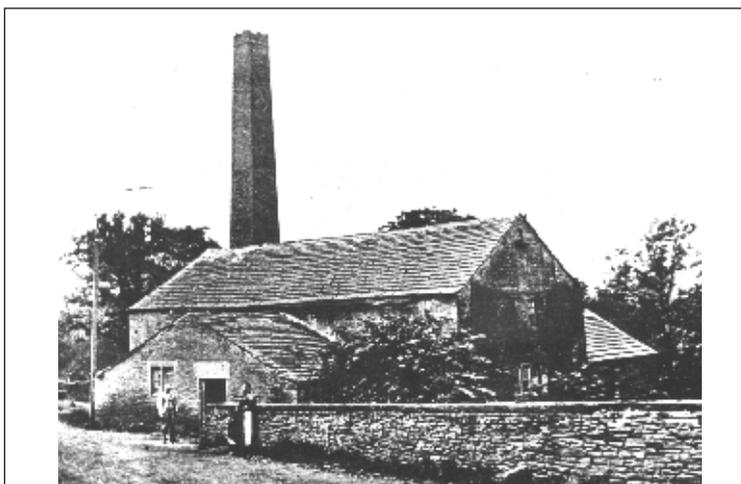


Lay-out of mill

Introduction to the Mill

Clayton Mill or, as it was better known for some 300 years, Marshall Mill stood some 20 yards in from the south bank of the River Dearne, which river was and still is the boundary between the townships of Clayton West and Skelmanthorpe. Thus the mill was firmly fixed just inside the Clayton West boundary. The two ancient villages of Clayton West and Skelmanthorpe each stood a good half mile from the mill but in opposite directions – Clayton West to the east and Skelmanthorpe to the west. For many centuries there lay between them – other than another corn mill and a small farm – nothing but a well wooded and truly rural landscape, which placed the mill in a somewhat isolated and lonely setting, but one which must have been truly picturesque with its only contact with the wider world coming through the farmers who brought their grain to be ground and the odd traveller passing along the road from High Hoyland to Skelmanthorpe (which ran in front of the mill door) who might look in with some kind of news to tell or seek.

For how many centuries it remained so peacefully set we do not really know, but we do know that around the year 1830 its centuries of solitude were swept away for ever when the new textile-orientated village, later to be called Scissett, took root no more than 300 yards away – a village born like the mill out of the energy of the same parent river, the Dearne.



The Mill in 1890

The Wheelhouse is in the foreground. The roof of this building was altered to a lean-to type c1900. The figures are John Dickinson & his wife Emma.



The mill looking towards Clayton West (model)

As the mill had long been demolished before the advent of colour photography, no coloured images of it exist. But this realistic view, taken from an accurately made model, portrays something of its texture and colour when it was still a working unit. The upper part of the chimney was built of red, rustic bricks, believed to have been made and fired in the Cinderhill Close just across the river.

And so now Adieu'

*The never-failing brook, the busy mill,
The decent church that topt the neighbouring hill,
The hawthorn bush with seats beneath the shade,
For talking age and whispering lovers made:
How often have I bless'd the coming day
When toil remitting lent its turn to play,
And all the village train from labour free
Led up their sports beneath the spreading tree.*

Oliver Goldsmith, The Deserted Village

With acknowledgement to:

The Registry of Deeds, Wakefield; The Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Leeds;
The Savile Estate Office, Thornhill; Tony Bostock at Felixstowe for the Dickinson family tree; The late A.
Dawson's diaries; The late George Henry (Harry) Dickinson. Verbal recollections;
Dr. John Addy's "Know Your District" papers; Private papers

Published by Denby Dale Parish Council

Printed by Dearnside Press, 7a, Nortonthorpe Mills, Scissett HD8 9LA

About the author...

Born in 1920, Leslie Robinson has lived in Scissett all his life. He has had a life-long passion for local history and over the years has built up a remarkable archive, which will eventually be housed at Huddersfield University.



Marshall Mill

A copy of a painting by Edgar Cudworth of Clayton West, 1910

Walk along the old Barnsley Road (diagonally across from Scissett Middle School bus-bay) as far as the left-hand bend and over to your right you will see two sizeable rows of flats, Marshall Mill Court, built on the site of the former corn-mill dam. Follow the bend round and a little further on you will reach Marshall Mill House, the second miller's house to be built, described in our narrative as "New House". Opposite this house for centuries stood Marshall Mill.