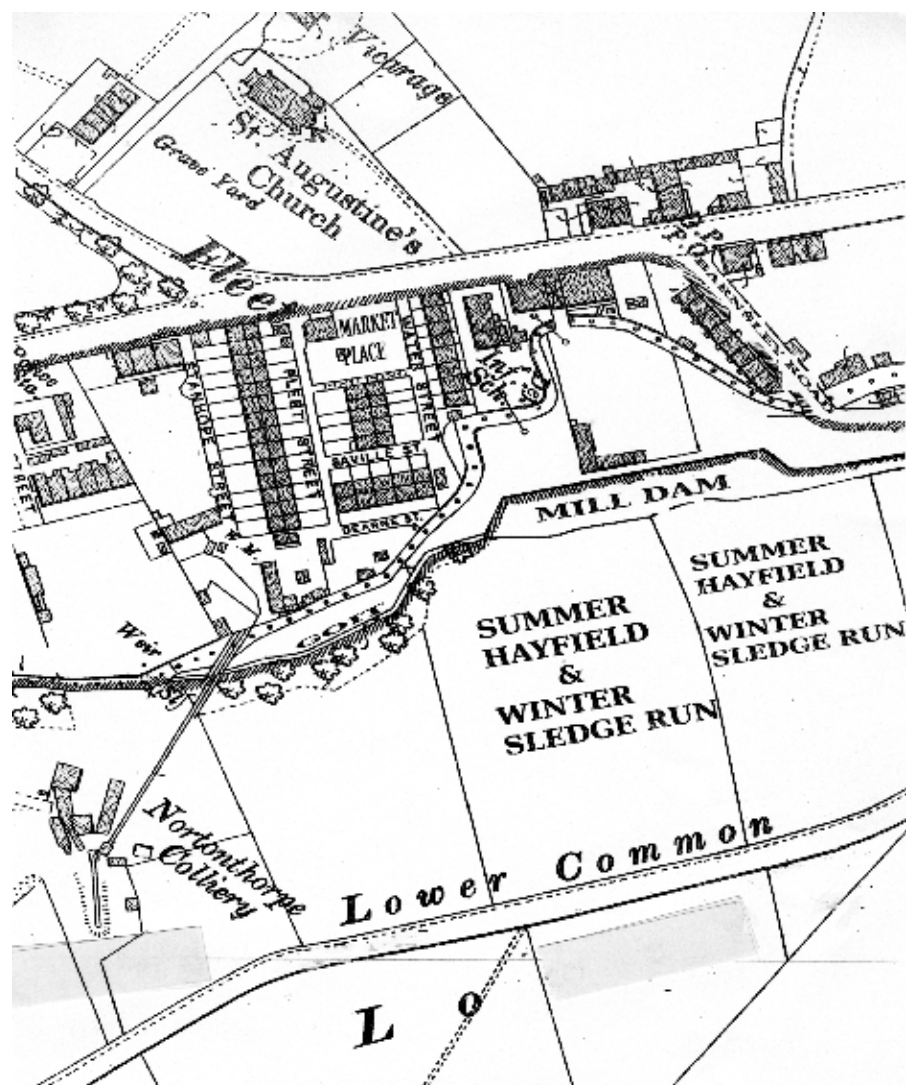


Know your village :
Scissett in times past



**HISTORY OF “THE FLEET” :
THE HEART OF SCISSETT**

Cover picture: "The Fleet" from the Common, showing the churchyard which gave grievance to some users of their well-water.



Plan of Scissett in 1900, showing the colliery herein mentioned.

c 1900

Introduction

Of the original founder of the village we know practically nothing, other than what we have learnt from some rather vague local historical research and further intelligent reasoning, with the conclusion that he was most probably a Danish immigrant settler of the 10th century, who came, liked what he saw - and stayed. His name (as has been suggested) may well have been Scissa or something of similar pronunciation, which together with the added suffix of "seat" (a place of residence) gives us in total "Scissa's seat", not too far from the centuries long use of Scissett by following generations.

On the other hand, and some nine hundred years later and of whom for the want of a better description might be called the village's re-founder, much is known and much admired.

Joseph Norton was born on 6th July 1800 and - rather significantly in view of later events - was born in "Scissett Croft" (believed to be the original settlement site), being the only one of Benjamin Norton's children to be born there. A year later Benjamin, then a small-time clothier, moved to new premises in Cuttlehurst where he





BUSKER BOTTOM © 1900

The gable-end of The Fleet, on the site now occupied by the Health Centre.

This picture of the north gable end of The Fleet Row bordering on the Denby Dale to Wakefield turnpike road in 1900 shows the single window cut by Joseph Norton to compensate house number 1 for loss of light and inconvenience when he built a butcher's shop there for his brother-in-law James Lee. The rent was also reduced by 4s a year or 1d per week. Alongside the window is the large village

This is the second volume of Leslie Robinson's "Know your village: Scissett in times past" series, following the publication "Remembering Marshall Mill".

Acknowledgement:

The author wishes to thank Kirklees Archives for permission to peruse the Skelmanthorpe Urban District Council Minute Books of the period; and to acknowledge the use of Mr Arthur Dawson's private diaries for dates connected with residents' movements from The Fleet to Sunnymead.

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.



Nortonthorpe Mills from the air in 1931

Part of “The Fleet” is in the background (top left)

Note: three mill chimneys - now none!

Across from Busker Lane, alongside the main Wakefield Road (the new turnpike road of our narrative), now stand Scissett Health Centre and its adjoining pharmacy.

For over a century this very spot marked one end of “The Fleet”, the village's earliest row of workers' houses, which ran at right-angles from the main road towards the River Dearne. In the garden of the first property, the village butcher's shop once occupied the site of the present Chemist's Shop.