

The House in my Back Garden



Willerby Hall

Margaret McGlashan, Willerby, 2019

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This Dutch Style house was built probably late 17th century or early 18th century but was much remodelled in the 18th century when an extension to the left was added. It is of red brick in Flemish Bond with stone dressing and pantile roof. The central bay projects slightly and has a Dutch gable with stone coping. The shaped gables may be part of the original design but they were seemingly rebuilt in 1878 when a William Botterill carried out major alterations including a new roof. In the 1700s the Hall was taxed on 43 windows. Marked on the 1855 Ordnance Survey Map as Oak Hill House, the Hall is situated towards the northern end of Main Street in Willerby, on the corner of Well Lane.



By 1721 it appears the house was occupied by a **William Mowld**, a wealthy Hull merchant involved in the shipping trade to the Baltic (iron imports). Wilberforce House in Hull had been his home from about 1688 to 1700. William was an Alderman and the Mayor of Hull in 1698 (maybe also 1714) and he became Sheriff of Hull in 1731. In the 1740s an unfortunate accident involving his chaise overturning on his way home from Beverley resulted in his death. The Hall was left to his widow **Alice**. Their son, **James Mowld** died in 1745 and the house became the property of his sister **Jane** (Mowld) who was the wife of **Christopher Bayles**. On her death in 1756, the house became the property of their daughter, **Jane Bayles** who in 1757 married **Bethel Robinson**. They sold it in 1780 to **Thomas Kirk** who sold it to **Robert Dale**. He was a Hull merchant but he sold it to a widow, **Elizabeth Smith** in 1800.

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Elizabeth Lydia Smith had married **George Schonswar** of Ellerker in 1801. Again a very prominent Hull merchant in the wine trade, he was a J.P., an Alderman and in 1808 was Sheriff of Hull. Elizabeth died in 1834 and the house was sold to **Joseph Jones**, a Hull draper.

1841 England Census for Joseph Jones
Yorkshire > Kirk Ella > Cottingham > District 8

Parish of Willerby

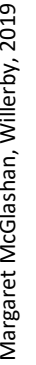
Household	NAME	AGE	SEX	PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Wife
1	Joseph Jones	55	M	Draper	
	Jane do	50	F		
	Elizabeth do	10	F		
	Maria do	5	F		
	Ellen Bilgar	35	F		
	Sarah Crankles	40	F		
	John Crankles	25	M		
	Hannah Miller	22	F		
	Hannah Richardson	14	F		
	Laura Briggs	24	M		

Joseph Jones, another Hull merchant, was Mayor in 1811 and 1817 and was M.P. for Hull 1830/31. He kept Willerby Hall until 1854. We can see him and his wife **Jane** residing there in both the 1841 and the 1851 Census.

Regular national censuses have taken place nearly every ten years since 1801. The first four censuses (1801–1831) were mainly statistical, mainly headcounts, with virtually no personal information. The 1841 Census was the first to intentionally record names of all individuals in a household or institution.

There were two young children residing at the Hall in 1841. They were Joseph and Jane's daughters (evidence from the 1851 census). We also see that altogether there were six servants to help with the running of the Hall.

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Yorkshire > Willerby > Sutton > 2

In 1851 a nephew , John Jones, was also at the Hall. Was he visiting or did he live there?

There are five servants, one of whom is a governess. Is she for the youngest daughter and the nephew?

The Elms, Anlaby Road

46	Willaby Hall.	1	John Laper	Head	Mar 57	Mrs. Muri Merchant	do Henderson
			Jane Laper	Wife	do	do	Hall
			Jane Capill	Servant	Nov 48	do	York
			Jacob Longshore	Servant	Nov 48	House Maid	Brunswick York
Total of Houses...	7		Total of Males and Females...	10	15		

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1871 England Census for John Leaper										
Yorkshire > Willerby > Cottingham > 8										
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										
* Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Board, or (Improvement Commissioners District) of	Electoral			
Willerby					Village		Ricton			
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U.) or Building (B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	1. 2. 3. 4.
						Males	Females			
14	Willerby Hall	1	John Leaper	Head	Mar	47		Wine Merchant & Land owner	Yorkshire Ricton	
			Jane Leaper	Wife	Mar		42		do Hull	
			Eliza Swire	Daughter	Mar		67		do do	
			Elizabeth Leaper Booth	Niece	Mar		14	Scholar	do Howden	
			Mary Maria Tupper	Serv	Mar		50	Cook (Domestic Servant)	do York	
			Mary Wilson	Serv	Mar		16	House Maid	do Willerby	

It is in the 1871 census where we see the start of what was to become a settled period in the history of the Hall. We can see that John's great niece, **Elizabeth Leaper Booth** was with the family. Elizabeth, born in 1856 in Howden, seems to have had a tragic start to her young life. Her father William, who was John Leaper's nephew, died in the year she was born, and her mother died when she was only five years old. It is possible that Elizabeth was living with her great uncle John rather than just visiting them. In 1878, John Leaper died and **Elizabeth Leaper Booth** inherited the Hall. His wife Jane had died three years earlier. This is also the year that Elizabeth married **John Henry Fisher**, the son of John Fisher senior living at Willerby Manor. John Fisher senior was the head of Tealby and Co, a well established timber firm in Hull situated on the banks of the River Hull. Both John Henry and his brother Charles, the two sons of John Fisher, worked for the timber company. Charles would eventually live with his wife and family at 'Glenholme', opposite Willersly House on Main Street. The Fisher family would thus occupy three prominent houses at the north end of Main Street.