

## BANNER CROSS HALL

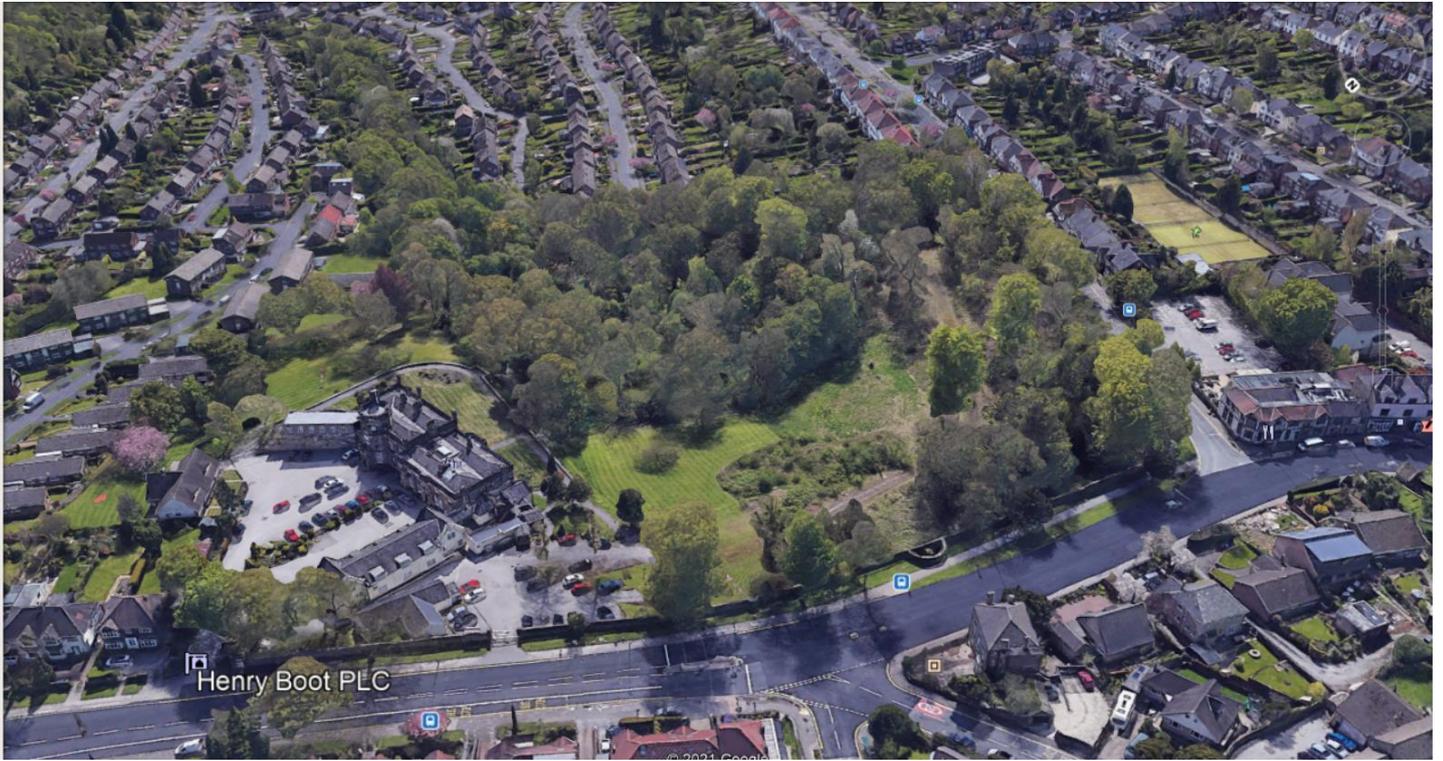
The present Tudor Gothic hall, a grade 11 listed building, dates from 1821, however a 16<sup>th</sup> century Elizabethan mansion owned by the Brights was located on the site prior to this. It appears to have got its name from an ancient cross, the base of which still remained in 1819, and which stood near to the original house. The name Banner comes from the old French “Baneur”, meaning a standard bearer.

In the time of Queen Elizabeth 1 (1558) the area was known as Banner Field, changing to Banner Cross in the time of James 1(1603). It was said that the Brights gave rest and refreshment here to Mary Queen of Scots on her way to confinement in Sheffield Castle. It was just one of the seats of the famous Bright dynasty, who originally settled in Whirlow in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. When John Bright died in 1586, he left three sons, who had each married daughters of neighbouring yeoman families; Henry, who succeeded to the family estates at Whirlow; Thomas, of Carbrook Hall; and John, of Banner Cross Hall.



*Banner Cross Hall today*

The Bright family died out in February 1748 upon the death of John Bright of Chesterfield and the ensuing death of his grandson and heir, Bright Dalton, later that year. Banner Cross Hall was then conveyed by John Bright’s grand-daughter and heiress, Mary Dalton, to her husband, Lord John Murray, the son of the Duke of Athol, and MP for Perthshire, Colonel of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot and Aide-de-Camp to King George II.



*The main entrance to the Hall is on Ecclesall Road South (behind the “H” of Henry Boot PLC) with a secondary gateway further up the road and a further gate round the corner on Carter Knowle Road. The Prince of Wales pub is on the right, with the grass courts of Ecclesall Lawn Tennis Club beyond.*



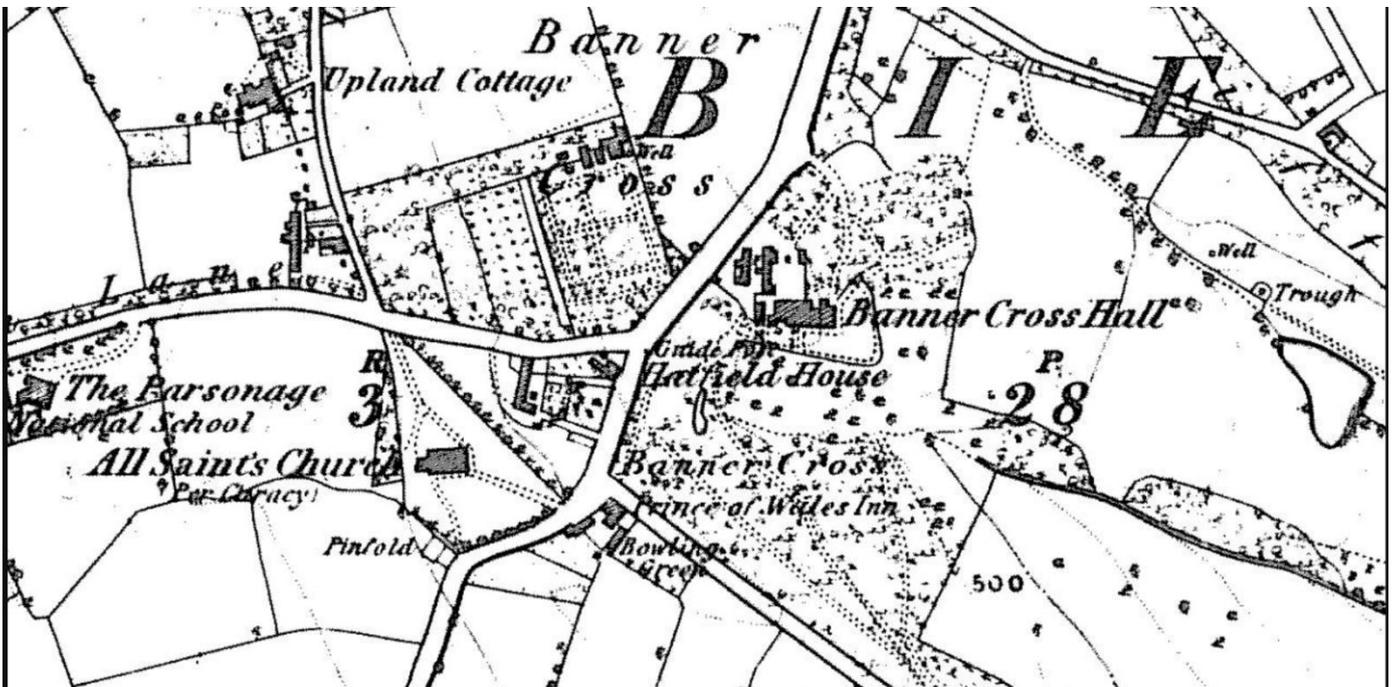
*The little used entrance gates on Carter Knowle Road.*



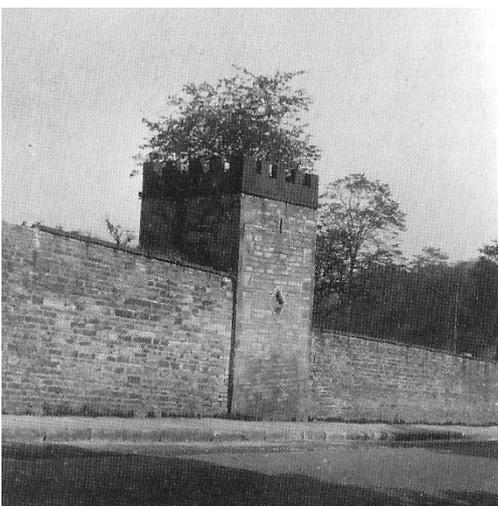


*This old picture shows the boundary wall of the Hall extending down Ecclesall Road South to Brincliffe Edge Road. The grounds are extensively planted with trees. Properties on the left side of Ecclesall Road South had yet to be built (following the removal of the chestnut tree and wall!)*

**During his occupation Lord John made many improvements to the hall, landscaped the grounds, planted much woodland and created a kitchen garden.**



*On this old map can be seen the pinfold by Ecclesall Church, the bowling green attached to the Prince of Wales pub, Hatfield House at the corner of Ringinglow Road & Ecclesall Road South, and Upland Cottage (now called The Uplands) on Dobbin Hill.*

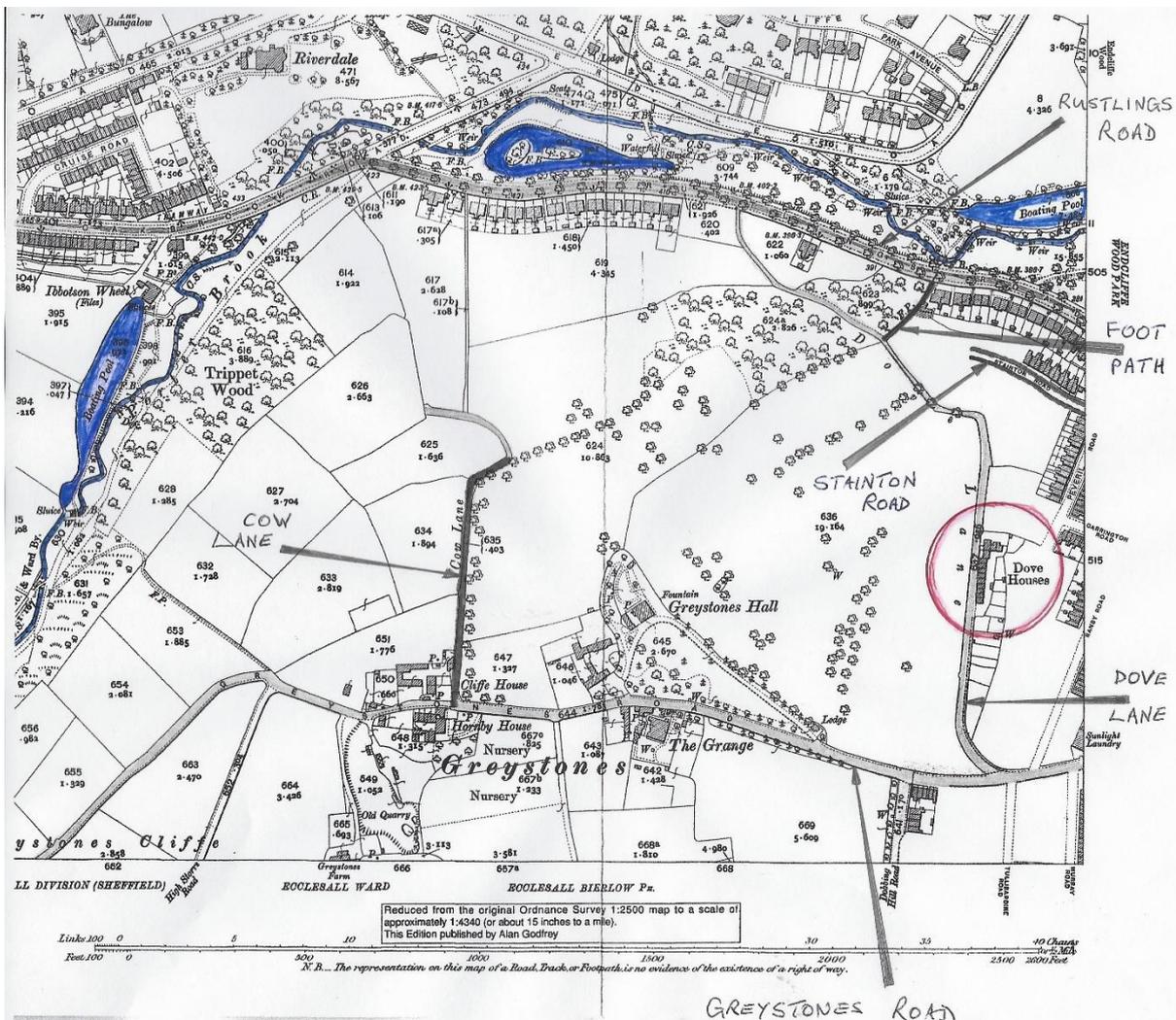


*This tower, set into the 10 foot high wall at the bottom of Ringinglow Road, which bounded the kitchen gardens of the hall, was built for Lord John Murray as a bolt hole to afford him some peace and quiet. It included two rooms with bow windows and he is said to have kept a small library there.*

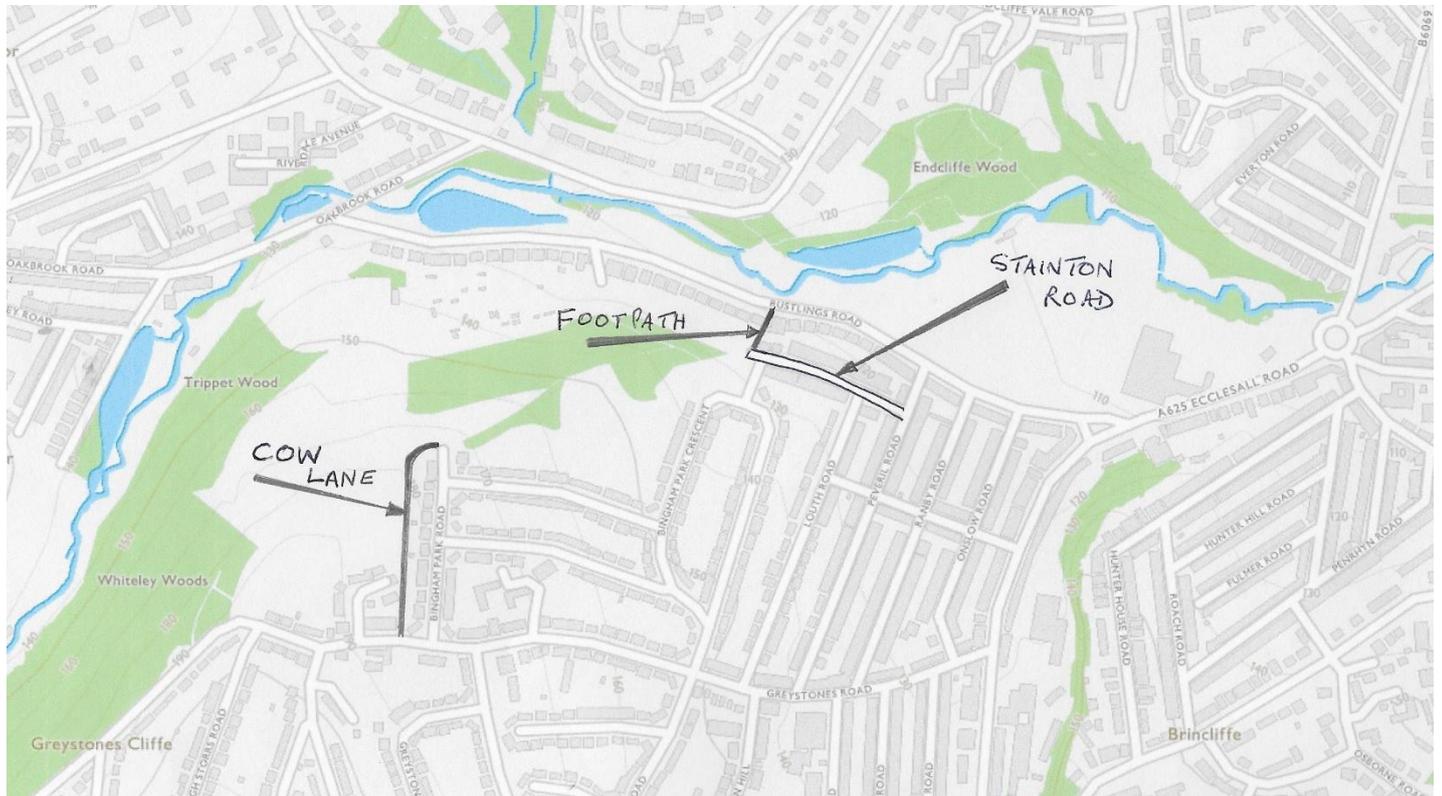
Sir John brought with him from Scotland many servants, amongst them a man and wife by the name of Wragg. These people were housed in the old Dove Cottages/Houses (now demolished) which stood on the now vanished Dove Lane in Greystones. The Wraggs had a daughter called Molly who went into "service" before eventually settling down as a midwife and nurse, living in a little cottage at the top end of Brincliffe Edge Road. Molly was looked on as a curer of all ills so when anyone was sick the cry was: "Fetch Molly Wragg". Because of this Brincliffe Edge Road was known locally as Molly Wragg Lane.



Old Dove houses on Dove Lane



1903 OS Map above showing Dove Houses on Dove Lane, which ran from Rustlings Road (a tram route) to Greystones Road. Cow Lane, so named because this was the route that cows took from farm yard to fields, still exists as a footpath. The short footpath running from Dove Lane to Rustlings Road is also still in existence. In 1903 Stainton Road did not extend as far as the short footpath as it does today. Two of the dams on the River Porter are shown as Boating Ponds. The whole of the central area around Greystones Hall was fields or open land. Dove Lane has vanished altogether, but it ran between the present day Louth and Peveril Roads.



Present day map showing Cow Lane footpath running from Greystones Road to Bingham Park, and the footpath leading from Rustlings Road to the end of Stainton Road.

**On Sir John's death the estate was inherited by his son-in-law, Lt. General William Foxlowe, who had earlier married Lord John's daughter. Foxlowe subsequently took his wife's name of Murray, and purchased the interests of the Athol family.**

**William Murray had initially intended to merely modernise the dilapidated hall, but the architect he employed, Jeffrey Wyatt, persuaded him to practically demolish the old building and start again. The process took several years (1817 to 1821), and the result was an ingenious grouping of gables and turrets which gives the illusion of the mansion being much larger than it actually is. Wyatt claimed it to be one of his finest achievements.**

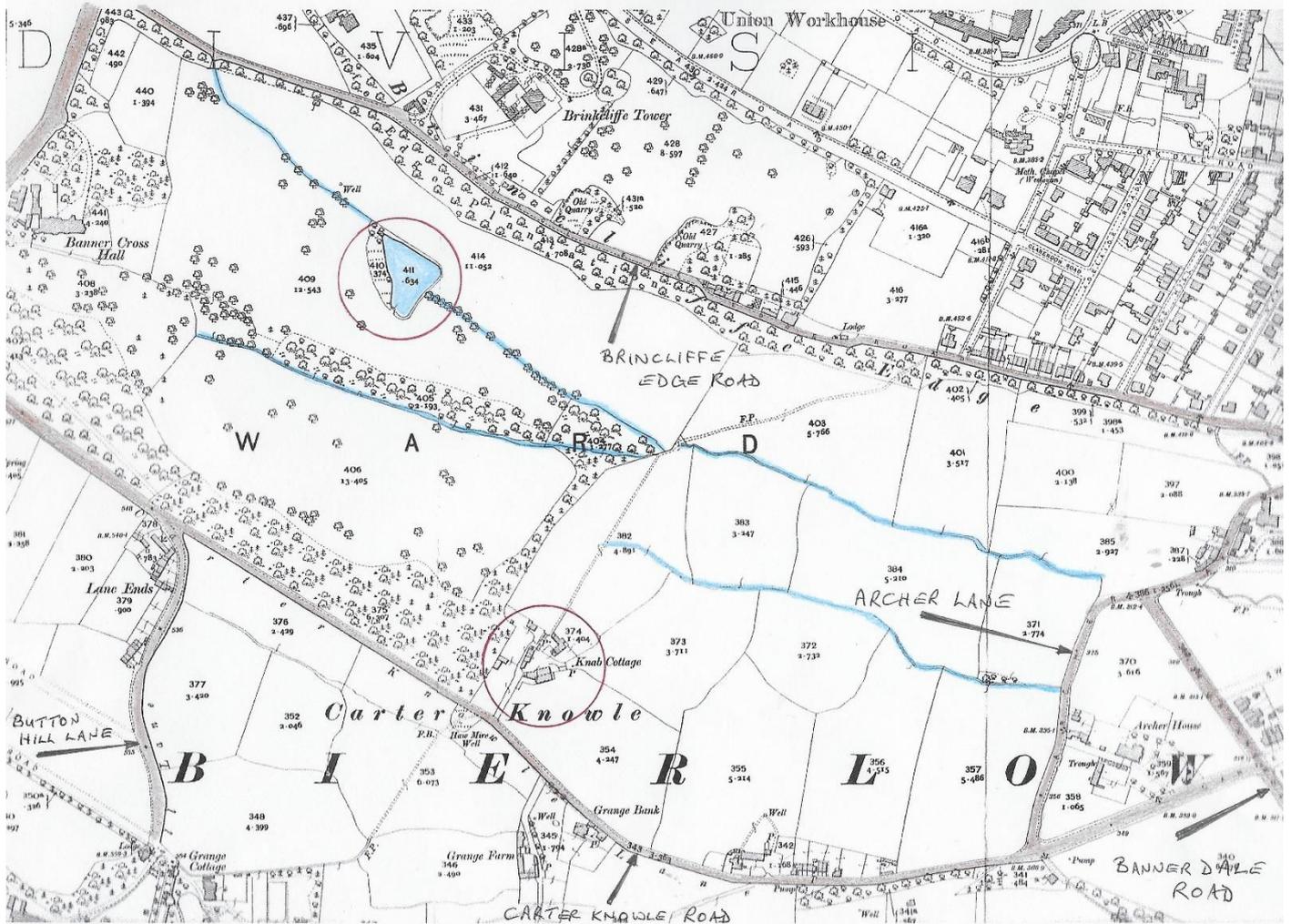
Jeffrey Wyatt was the designer of over 100 buildings, including the north wing of Chatsworth House and various parts of Longleat. He is best known for his work on Windsor Castle, for which King George IV bestowed on him a knighthood. As a result of this knighthood Wyatt was allowed to alter his name to Wyatville. A portrait of Sir Jeffrey Wyatville by Francis Chantry is in the National Portrait Gallery.

**General Murray retired here with the intention of "spending within its tranquil shades, the evening of an active and honourable life", however he died before the alterations were completed, and in his will he gifted the hall to his sister, Anne, the wife of the Rev. William Bagshawe, grand-mother of the Mr Greaves-Bagshawe who came to be owner of the hall in 1900. The Bagshawe's were a prominent family within Derbyshire and Yorkshire, residing at Ford Hall in Derbyshire, but with estates in Castleton, Chapel-en-le Frith Hope, Norton and Wormhill; and in Ecclesall Bierlow, Fulwood and Sheffield. Ford Road in Ecclesall is named after their home.**



Many of the nearby roads to the north of the hall reflect the Murray's ownership of the land, eg. Blair Atholl, Tullibardine, Huntingtower, Murray, Glenalmond, and Strathtay. Dunkeld Road is to the south. (Blair Athol is a village in Perthshire near the Duke's seat at Blair Castle. The Duke of Athol's eldest son has the title of Marquis of Tullibardine, a village near the family seat. Huntingtower is another village in Perthshire, (and also the inspiration for the title of a John Buchan novel). There is a Glen Almond valley in Perthshire, whilst Strathtay comes from the Murray family title of Earl of Strathtay and Strathardle. Dunkeld is yet another town in Perth & Kinross)

In a similar vein, 5 residential streets to the south-west of the hall owe their names to connections with another aristocratic landowner, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis of Rockingham, Charles Wentworth of Wentworth Woodhouse. On his marriage to Mary **Bright** in 1752 he acquired a large part of Ecclesall parish, and when he died childless in 1782 his estates were inherited by his nephew, the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl Fitzwilliam. Hence we have Harley Road, Haugh Lane, Hooper Avenue, Hooper Road and Cortworth Road, all named after localities near Wentworth Woodhouse on the Fitzwilliam estate. (In town we have Rockingham Gate/Lane/Way/Street and Fitzwilliam Gate/Street, all because of the same connection).



*In 1903 the Banner Cross Estate was much more extensive than it is now, occupying over 63 acres. The Murrays had also owned land at Nether Edge and Upper Edge. There were at least two Banner Rivers (hence Banner Dale) running from west to east. They still exist but have been culverted, and they eventually join the River Sheaf on the far side of Abbeydale Road. The triangular pond was probably formed when quarrying for clay to make bricks. In 1903 Bannerdale Road only extended from Abbeydale Road as far as Archer Lane, and farmland occupied much of the area between Brincliffe Edge and Carterknowle Roads. There was a farmhouse where Knab Cottage is circled, close to the present day Cherry Tree public house.*

**The hall, though owned by the Bagshawes was not occupied by them but rented out. Several notable Sheffield tenants included four Master Cutlers: George Wilson; Douglas Vickers J.P., politician and member of the eminent Sheffield engineering family; Lt Col H K Stephenson, MP and business man; and David Flather, an engineering firm owner, the hall's last occupant from 1922 to 1932.**

**In July 1932 the fate of the hall was in the balance. The old house had been on the market, subject of many rumours, and local people feared that it would be demolished. However, the announcement that Charles Boot of Henry Boot plc, the famous Sheffield-based construction company, had purchased the property, did much to alleviate concerns. At the time Charles Boot was living at Thornbridge Hall. The area of the land was just under 4 acres, and it was intended to accommodate all the firm's staff from its original Moore Street premises. 88 years on, Banner Cross Hall is still the HQ of Henry Boot.**

