

49 MARKET STREET, FLOOKBURGH  
(CROWN COTTAGES)

49 Market Street, Flookburgh is a 3 storey, terraced cottage and one of four, built on the roadside towards the eastern edge of the original village. It is the second cottage from the Crown Inn.



We do not know when the cottages were built or why but although they are attached to the Crown Inn, it appears that the Crown Inn was built first and stood alone. The Crown Inn is on Dr. Kuerden's 1685 map<sup>1</sup> but the cottages are not shown. There are buildings shown on the map of the Cartmel Enclosure Act<sup>2</sup> which was dated 1796, but we cannot assume they are the same cottages. The cottages could have therefore been built in the 1700s or 1800s.

In the property deeds the first date shown is 22 September 1874, when an indenture was made between **Charles Gray Rigge and Ellen Rigge** (his wife and daughter of James Stockdale), the owners, on the one part and **Henry Fletcher Rigge** (Charles' brother) of the other part. It is interesting to note that James Stockdale (Ellen's father) died in May 1874 and it will be interesting to see his will to

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<sup>1</sup> Lancashire Record Office DDX 194/34

<sup>2</sup> Kendal Record Office WPR/89/Z3 14/1/Z

see if the cottages are mentioned and if they were left to Ellen. Both Rigge families lived in Wood Broughton and Henry was made High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1870. Henry died in 1887 and left his property to his widow **Rosetta Margaret Rigge**, and following her death to his grandson, **Robert Stockdale Grayrigge**.<sup>3</sup> (Henry's son, Gray Rigge, who changed the family surname to Grayrigge, died in 1885 of pneumonia at his father-in-laws home in San Francisco)<sup>4</sup>. Rosetta died in 1905 and Robert Stockdale Grayrigge will then have inherited the cottages.

Although it is not dated it is maybe around that date that the following took place, taken from the deeds. It appears that Robert Stockdale Grayrigge sold the cottages after he inherited them from his grandmother, Rosetta Rigge.

*INDENTURE of this date made between Robert Stockdale Grayrigge of Wood Broughton in the County of Lancaster Esquire (thereinafter called "the Vendor") of the one part and **Thomas Butler** of Flookburgh in the said County of Lancaster Railway Porter (thereinafter called "the Purchaser") of the other part. RECITING that the Vendor was seized for an estate of inheritance in fee simple in possession free from incumbrance of and in the hereditaments therinafter described and agreement for sale for the sum of £500. IT WAS WITNESSED that in pursuance of the said agreement and in consideration of the sum of £500 paid etc. (receipt etc) the Vendor as beneficial owner thereby conveyed unto the Purchaser. ALL THOSE 3 cottages formerly 4 cottages with the garden ground and outbuildings adjoining situate in Main Street Flookburgh aforesaid as then in the occupation of the Purchaser Josph Page and Robert Hutton which said premises were lineated on the plan drawn on those presents and coloured pink.*<sup>5</sup>

In 1901 Joseph Page was landlord at the Crown Inn with his family but in 1905 he was living in 49 Market Street. In 1918 Thomas Butler in his will left 49 Market Street to his daughter **Margaret Robinson** of Heysham Harbour. He left the cottage next to the Crown to his son John Butler and the rent from the other 2 cottages to go to his wife, Elizabeth.<sup>6</sup>

Thomas Butler died in 1931 and Thomas Greaves with is family now rented 49 Market Street from Margaret Robinson. In 1954 **Thomas Greaves** bought the cottage from Margaret Robinson for £375.<sup>7</sup>

Thomas Greaves died in 1988 and the cottage was bought by **Mrs Drinkall** and on her death it was sold in 2014 to the present owner.

As a 3 storey building is unusual in Flookburgh we can only speculate why the cottages were built to 3 storeys, very similar to the town houses in Ulverston. Is it because they follow the roof height of the Crown Inn or because the landowner or builder had specific ideas for the cottages. There are no cellars and the building consisted of 2 rooms on each floor with the larger room at the front of the house and the smaller room at the back making room for the stairs and landing. There are beams in the ceilings and the front door has an entrance partition with flag floors. A door on the back wall, facing the front door, opens onto the staircase. There was no bathroom until Mrs Drinkall put one in on the first floor in the late 1980s. The back kitchen led into a narrow cobbled back yard shared with the cottage next to the Crown. At the side of the cobbled yard there was a water pump and the cobbles sloped down to a drain in the middle of the yard.

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<sup>3</sup> Lancaster Gazette 14 January 1888

<sup>4</sup> Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser 2 October 1885

<sup>5</sup> Deeds of 49 Market Place

<sup>6</sup> Deeds of 49 Market Place

<sup>7</sup> Deeds of 49 Market Place

From the yard 4 steps led up to a narrow path edged on both sides by garden. The path led to washhouses and outside toilets. From the top of the path, next to the outhouses the large garden and orchard went as far as the railway line.

A few years ago in the garden and orchard a copper halfpenny token was found. These tokens were used as every day money for the poor. The token appeared to be from the Lancaster and were produced in the 1790s.

*Barbara Copeland*