

## The Rockeries, Lindale: from outhouse to Dames' School – A House History

The first record for the house, situated at the lower end of Lindale in the 'Manor of Lindale and Hampsfield', dates from 1817, as a dwelling house, formerly an outhouse, known as The Kiln '...the customary estate and inheritance of John Barrow (Yeoman) of Meathop, deceased'. It descended to his son, John Barrow, who in 1838 was appointed one of the Trustees to the newly erected Lindale School. It was at this time that it was recorded in *School Life at Lindale*. From 1935 it was known as Ghyll Cottage, as Lyncroft in 1950, becoming The Rockeries in 1957.

The house sale records show how house prices have changed, from £104 in 1899 and still only £350 in 1950, through £2100 in 1957, leaping up to £9000 in 1972, with a great increase by the 1980s to £26,500. The house has had four name changes, The Kiln, The Ghyll, Lyncroft to The Rockeries. It changed hands four times in the 1950s between spinsters and widows.



COTTAGE IN LINDALE, WHERE J. CRAYSTON  
TAUGHT IN 1837.

31 July 1817	<b>Robert Fell (tailor) of Lindale, tenant</b> , tenant of said messuage, paid a yearly rent of four pence to <b>John Barrow</b>
5 June 1821 (Conveyance)	An indenture between Robert Fell (tailor) and John Backhouse (farmer) of Witherslack, in trust for <b>Jane Fell</b> (wife of Robert Fell). John Backhouse paid Robert Fell five shillings (for <b>The Kiln</b> , at or near the lower end of Lindale)
10 April 1824 (conveyance)	An indenture between John Backhouse and Jane Fell (wife of Robert Fell) to <b>Jane Bouskell (spinster), natural daughter of Jane Fell</b> . Jane Bouskell paid five shillings each to John Backhouse and Jane Fell. Neither John Backhouse nor Jane Fell could write. Each signed only with a cross.
1828	The house appeared on a map for the sale of Castle Head, John Wilkinson's estate, as Lot XII, Leasehold plot of land at Kiln Cottage (no 32 on map)
1837	It was used as a <b>school</b> , for boys only, by Jimmie Crayston, while Lindale School was being rebuilt. A photo of Jimmie Crayston at the door of the old cottage appears in <i>School Life at Lindale</i>
1838	<b>John Barrow</b> (junior) was appointed one of the Trustees to the newly erected Lindale school.
	Compulsory education came into force in 1870. There is then a gap until 1887
15 April 1887	Under the will of Ellen Hollywell (widow), late of Limerick, the house, two gardens and a peat house, was left to <b>Ann Jane Casey</b> , wife of Thomas Casey of Kilkenny, Cork (farmer). The rent was still four pence

1 March 1892 (Admittance)	Ann Casey, tenant of said premises, now in the actual occupation of James Johnson (yeoman), John Johnson and William Johnson for the yearly customary rent of four pence. James Johnson, despite being named as a yeoman still signed with a mark.
2 March 1892	Indenture between Ann Jane Casey and James Johnson
1 March 1899 (Admittance)	<b>James Johnson</b> 'hath the best right' to a customary messuage and dwellinghouse two gardens and a peathouse duly enrolled tenant on the Rolls of the said Manor
9 November 1899 (Conveyance)	Indenture between James Johnson (yeoman) and <b>John Winder</b> of Lindale (grocer) at a price of £104. James Johnson signed with a mark
14 May 1908	Will of John Winder bequeathed his estate upon trust for his wife <b>Eleanor Winder</b> for life and then upon trust for his adopted daughter Isabella
13 June 1910	John Winder died
2 June 1911 (Admittance)	Eleanor Winder (widow) and Isabella Metcalfe (spinster) apply to take in trust of Robert Stockdale Grayrigge Lord of the said Manor for payment of two pounds and ten shillings fine
21 December 1911	Will of Eleanor Winder bequeathed her estate to her daughter <b>Isabella</b>
1916-1924?	Occupied by the Bellamy's. They had seven children. Alfred was born in 1917
26 November 1935	Eleanor Winder died
30 December 1935	Compensation agreement between Fletcher Grayrigge Lord of the Manor and Isabella Metcalfe that part of consideration for the extinguishment of the manorial incidents and rights of the lord (other than mines and minerals in or under the said property) for the sum of fourteen pounds eight shillings and eight pence The Lord of the Manor, Fletcher Grayrigge, had retained the mineral rights.
	The house became known as The Ghyll or <b>Ghyll Cottage</b>
15 June 1950 (Conveyance)	The house was sold by <b>Isabella Metcalfe</b> (of Sunny Bank) to Mary Agnes Jackson (widow) of Cartmel for £350. At this time it became known as <b>Lyncroft</b>
21 August 1952 (Conveyance)	Mary Jackson sold to Ada Marjorie Dale of Grange (spinster) for £2150
19 September 1952 (Conveyance)	Ada Dale sold to Mrs Marjorie Nolan, Southport, wife of Edward William Nolan for £1750
30 March 1955 (Conveyance)	Marjorie Nolan sold to Bertha Holden (widow) of Clitheroe for £1925
14 August 1957 (Conveyance)	Bertha Holden sold to Mary Chattwood, (spinster), Colchester for £2100. At this date it became <b>The Rockeries</b>
17 May 1972	Mary Chattwood died
7 May 1975 (Conveyance)	It was sold on behalf of Mary Chattwood to Roger and Alena Anna Pergl-Wilson of Bowness for £9000
18 March 1981 (Conveyance)	Sold to Francis and Mary Cooper of Haverthwaite for £26,500
20 March 1985 (Conveyance)	Sold to James and Jill Bertlin



Note: Old Dames' Schools were an early form of elementary education, usually taught by women, often in their own homes, as In Lindale. The curriculum could include church catechism, reading, knitting and sewing, but not writing. There were no attendance books and no records. They became less common after the introduction of compulsory education in 1870.

*This article, written by Sylvia Woodhead, is dedicated to the late Jill Bertlin (1944-2016) who carried out all the research.*

