

CARLTON HOUSE: HOUSE HISTORY

It is not yet known where John Ferguson, resident engineer of the Oxford Canal, lived initially, but the Brinklow census of 1841 records him as living with his wife, Mary, on the north-west side of the turnpike road from Coventry; Carlton House, the imposing blue-brick building on the left hand side going towards Lutterworth, which he subsequently built at least before 1876, stands on the line of the disused canal, and accords with the description, so was very probably built between 1834 and 1841. An extract from the deeds of Carlton House records it as being "one rood or thereabouts....having stable and coach house, and other buildings known as the Old Mill..." (now Nutwood Cottage.)

Parish records for Brinklow record that John Ferguson died August 10th 1854 aged 69, and his wife Mary on 14th March 1862, aged 84. Both are buried in Brinklow Churchyard -the grave is found by going left of the main doorway of the church, up the slope to the back corner, and is a large tomb surrounded by iron railings. Mary Ferguson, in her will of 1862, bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens of Brinklow a substantial sum of money, the interest amounting to £2 12s 0d to be given amongst deserving widows of the parish at Christmas; this charity is still in operation.

It has been suggested that at one time, Carlton House was owned by the Suttons of Sutton Stop (Hawksbury Junction), and that a Sutton married a Spencer of the Coventry ribbon-weaving family, a relative of David Spencer, Nonconformist Congregationalist, an extremely wealthy ribbon manufacturer, who gave Spencer Park to the City of Coventry. There is certainly a record of a marriage between a David Spencer and a Tabitha Sutton on 24th January 1831 at Foleshill, although this family does not appear in the 1841 census for Foleshill. In the 1851 census for The Canal Stop, Foleshill, however, a Henry Sutton, aged 45, and born at Stretton appears as the canal toll-clerk, living with his wife and family. This Henry appears in the 1861 census at Hawksbury Stop, and in the 1871 census for Brinklow (address not recorded) as a farmer of 87 acres employing 2 men and a boy.

Henry Sutton would seem to be the son of Richard Sutton, who was appointed canal clerk in 1807, and from whom Sutton Stop gained its local name, still in use today. Both were buried at the United Reform Church, Old Church Rd. Coventry, so it may be that Henry Sutton retired to Brinklow to farm, perhaps moving into Carlton House itself, but returning to Foleshill as his final resting-place. The parish records for Stretton-under-Fosse record a Sutton family baptism in Sept. 1797 and marriages in 1832, 1843 and 1849, although as yet, Henry Sutton's baptism has not been discovered.

Subsequent owners/occupiers of Carlton House were:

1896: Mrs. Whalley

1900 Miss Bat

1921 Miss Ingram (teacher)

1928 Miss Ingram;

1940 Mr. Charles Tew.

Chapman's Factory, making electrical parts, occupied the site of Nutwood cottage during World War II.