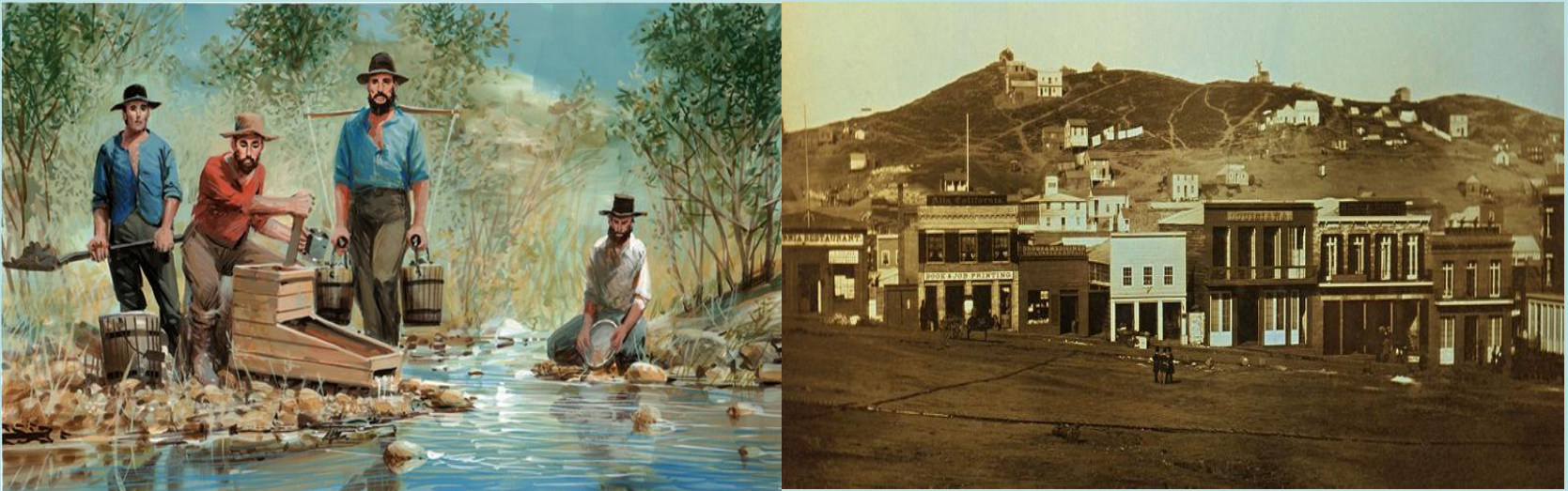


California here we come!!

Researched and presented by Ken Taylor

What started on 24 January 1848 and lasted till 1855?



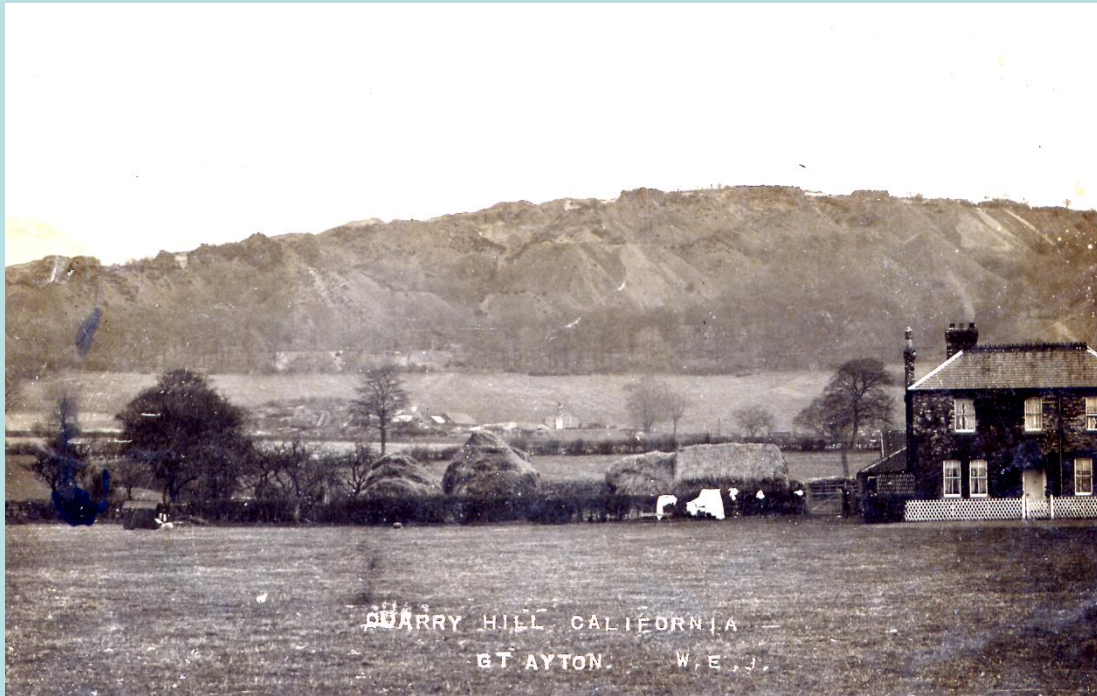
Answer- the California Gold rush!

Meanwhile, 5000 miles away in Great Ayton.....

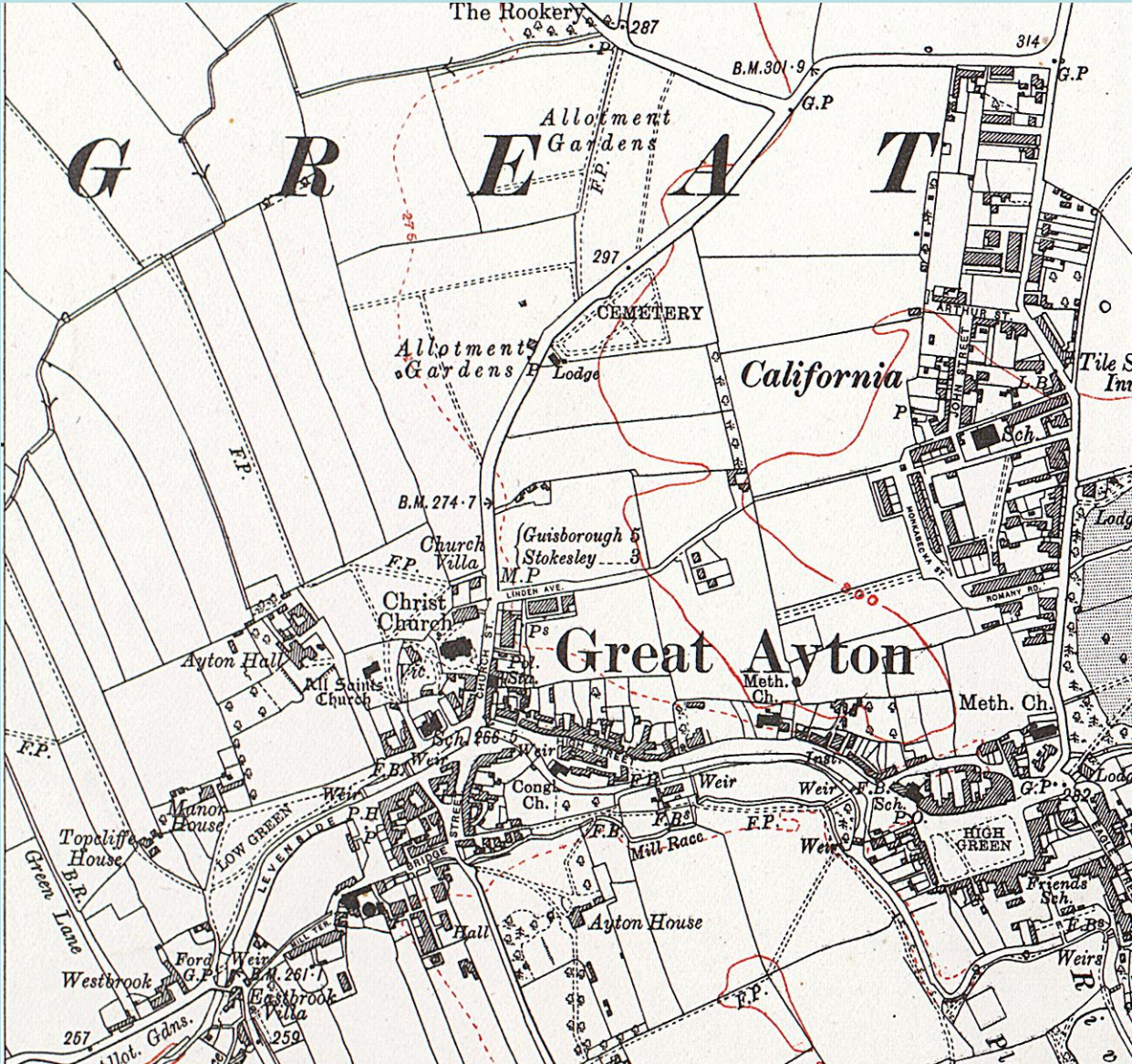
....there was no gold just whinstone!



The development of California from 1850 to 1930and what remains today



Where is California?



California before 1850



Tithe map of 1847

How did California develop?

2 main stages:

- 1) Sell-off of plots for gardens and housing
(from 1850)
- 2) Construction of miner's cottages in 2 phases
(1870-1890 and 1900 onwards)

Stage One

- Large areas around village held by wealthy landowners
- Under pressure to sell off plots for gardens or house building (Ralph Dixon memoirs)
- John Richardson of Langbaugh Hall owned most of area known as California

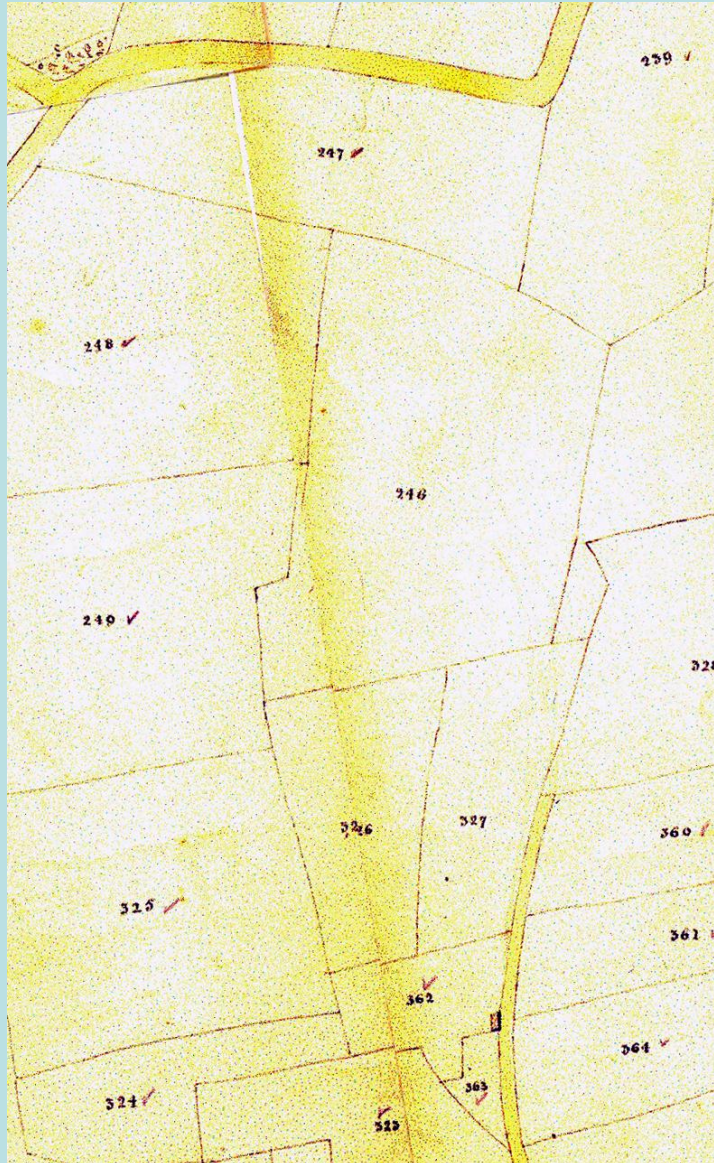
John Richardson opens up California!



19 June 1851- red letter
day – 21 plots sold
along Wind Lane!!

A further 7 plots sold off
to create John St/
Arthur St in May 1855

Comparison with OS Map of 1856



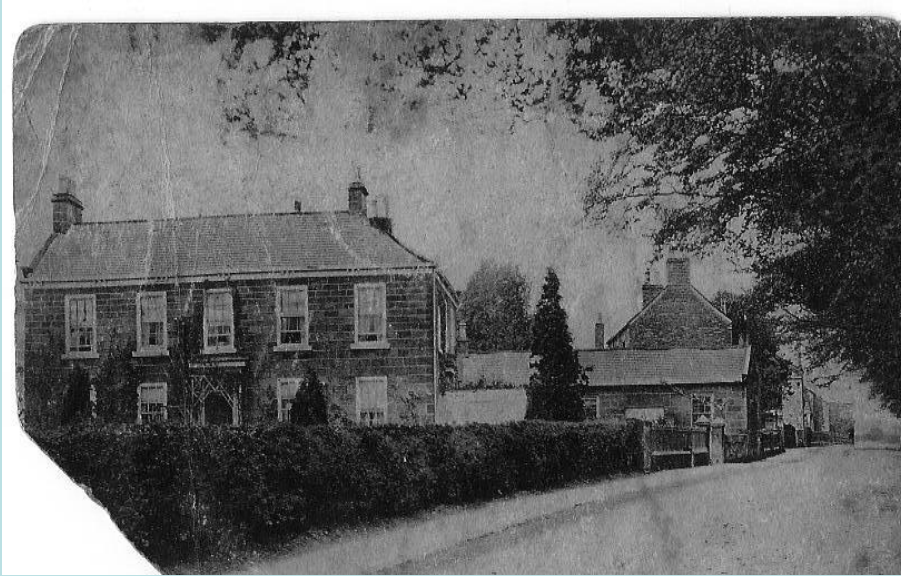
Pattern of growth from 1850 onwards

- Initially along “Wind Lane”, later George Street and now known as Newton Road
- Road extended from Tilesheds farm up to Guisborough Road
- Brick & tile works operated till 1865
- Pressure on sewage system – main drain extension installed in 1876.
- Development off Newton Rd as pressure for housing of miners increased (John St/Arthur St)
- Early houses were quite individual!

Rosehill / Rosehill Lodge

built by George Bulmer, a stone mason, in 1855

Used to have a schoolroom/shop at the back



Photograph taken in 1910



Picture painted in 1993

“Birch View” – built by William Hebron, in 1852



- Built on first parcel of land sold off by John Richardson
- First house to be built in an area called Mount Pleasant

Cliff Rigg House

Built in 1862 by George Dixon for his retirement as first headmaster of Friends School

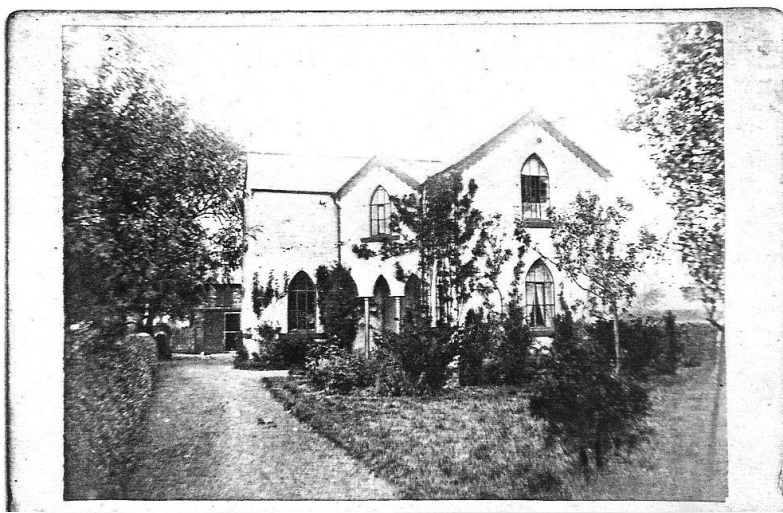


Now 3 properties



2 members of Derwent family in 1870

The Recess 1884-2008



The Maycroft family outside "the Recess", 1898



Built by John Wright,
'Bard of Cleveland' in
1862

The Pilot's Cottage



Built by a river pilot ~1870
'Roslyn' was part of same
property till 1948



William Wilkinson (with Jim
Pearson, builder) in 1920s

“Woodville”, John Street



Built for John Dixon, son of George Dixon, first headmaster of Friends School, in 1861

Outram Cottages



Outram cottages (named after Sir James Outram?) were built in the 1870s on land owned by John Richardson of Langbaugh Hall.

May have been almshouses for retiring estate employees

John Harbottle set up his joinery business in Albion House



Owned by Harbottle family since
land purchased in 1851



Approximate building dates

- Birch View 1852
- Rosehill /Rosehill Lodge 1855
- Woodville 1861
- The Recess 1862
- Cliff Rigg House 1862
- Pilots Cottage 1870
- Outram Cottages ~1875

Stage Two

- Whinstone mining about to become serious business!
- Leeds City Council took lease in Cliff Rigg whinstone mine in 1869 for road paving – shaped sets transported to Leeds on new railway which had arrived in 1864
- Over next 20 years California grew to accommodate miners and families:

39 “labourers in flint quarry” according to 1871 census

60 whinstone miners in 1881

Growth of California

The 1861 census records 46 houses and 209 people in George Street (now Newton Rd)

This grew to :

74 houses and 309 people in 1871

121 houses and 577 people by 1881

130 houses and 528 people by 1901

Melbourne Terrace – oldest terrace in California?

Originally built to house brick & tile makers?



Eaton's Row (next to Tiledsheds)

Built in pairs by local builder Joseph Eaton



Cleveland Street



John St/Arthur St corner

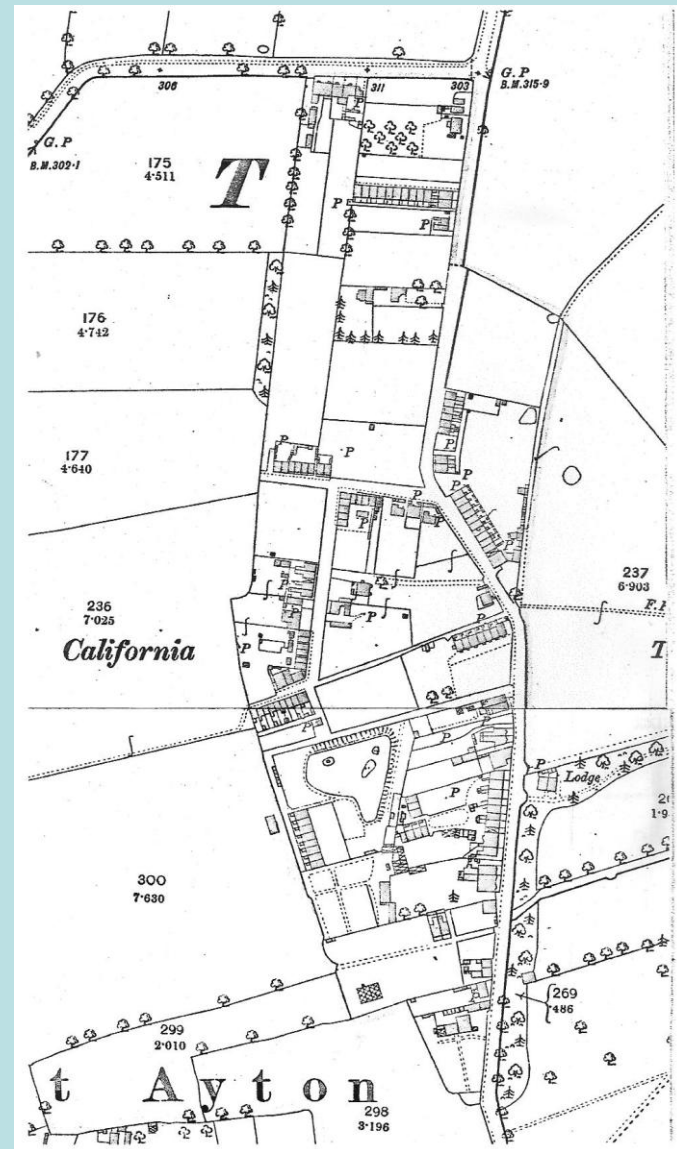


Roseberry House/Tower House

Owned by Bradley Brothers, developers of Langbaugh Whinstone Mine



Growth of California between 1856 & 1892



California was built largely for miners-
true or false?

Answer-FALSE!

In 1881, 64 miners lived in California
68 miners lived in rest of village

Where did the miners come from?

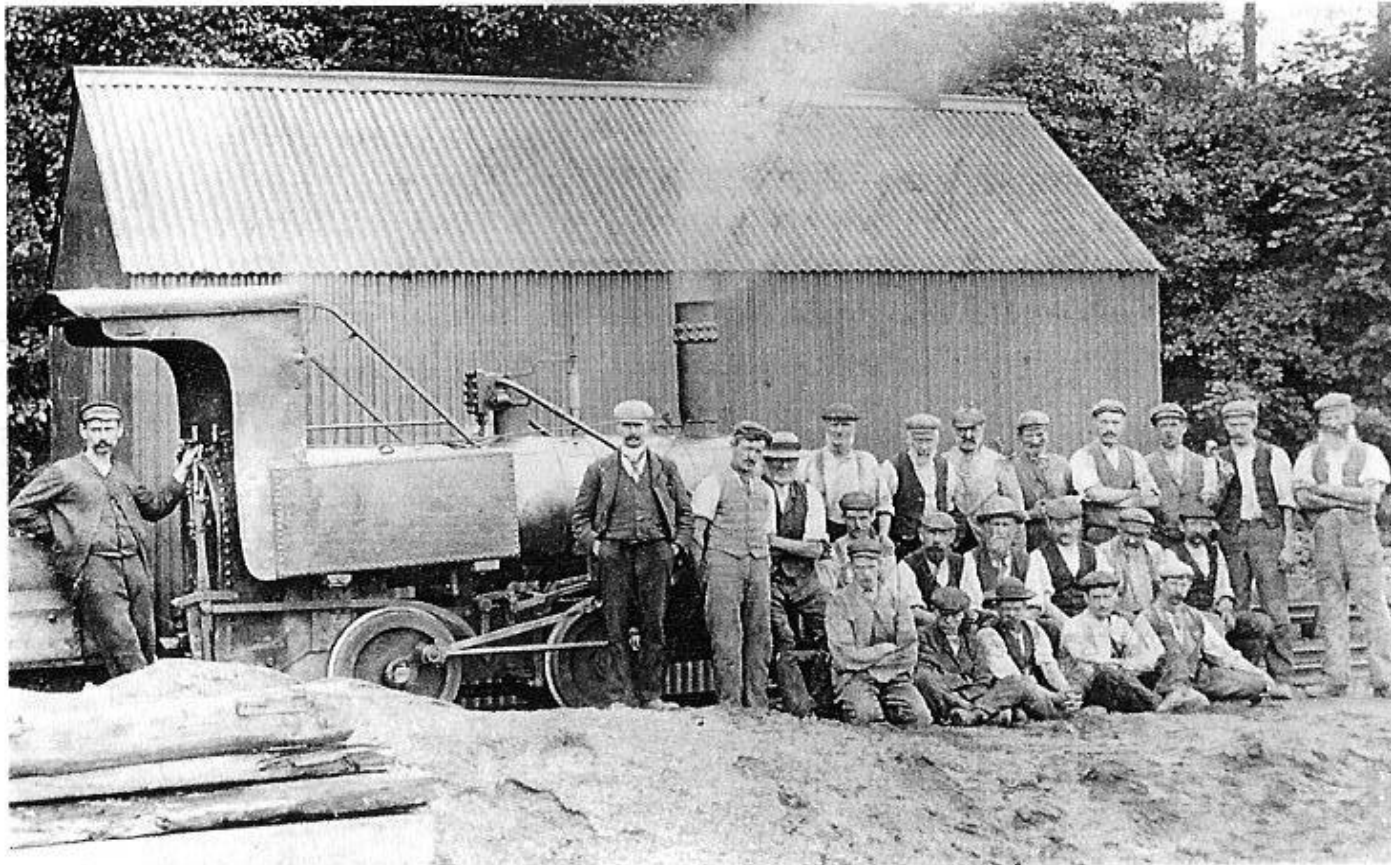
Source	1871	1881	1901
Within Ayton/Newton	6%	27%	39%
Surrounding villages	52%	42%	39%
>20 miles	32%	31%	22%

Age range of Miners

Age	1871	1881	1901
<20	35%	16%	14%
20-40	38%	56%	45%
41-60	25%	24%	51%
>60	0	4%	10%

Note: In 1871, most stone breakers were under 20 (some only 13)

Whinstone mining becomes big business



Whinstone miners, Great Ayton. So acute was the shortage of houses before WWI that some miners were having to live in Stokesley and walk or cycle to work

California consolidates by the turn of the century

- Whinstone mining reaching its peak (100 employees)
- New challenges as ironstone mining starts to develop
- By 1908, 230 people employed in Roseberry Mine alone
- Plans for school developed
- This created need for even more houses

Plans presented to and passed by the Parochial Sanitary Committee

- 1907 7 cottages at west end of Cliff Terrace
 5 cottages on north side of Munkaley Rd (or
 Monkabecka St and later Romany Rd)
- 1908 Edward Kitching school opens with 148 children
- 1909 12 cottages in California (Southfield Terrace?)
 6 cottages on north side of Bradleys Row (Terrace)
 4 cottages in John Street
- 1910 7 cottages in George Street (Newton Rd)
- 1911 47 cottages in California (not all built!?)

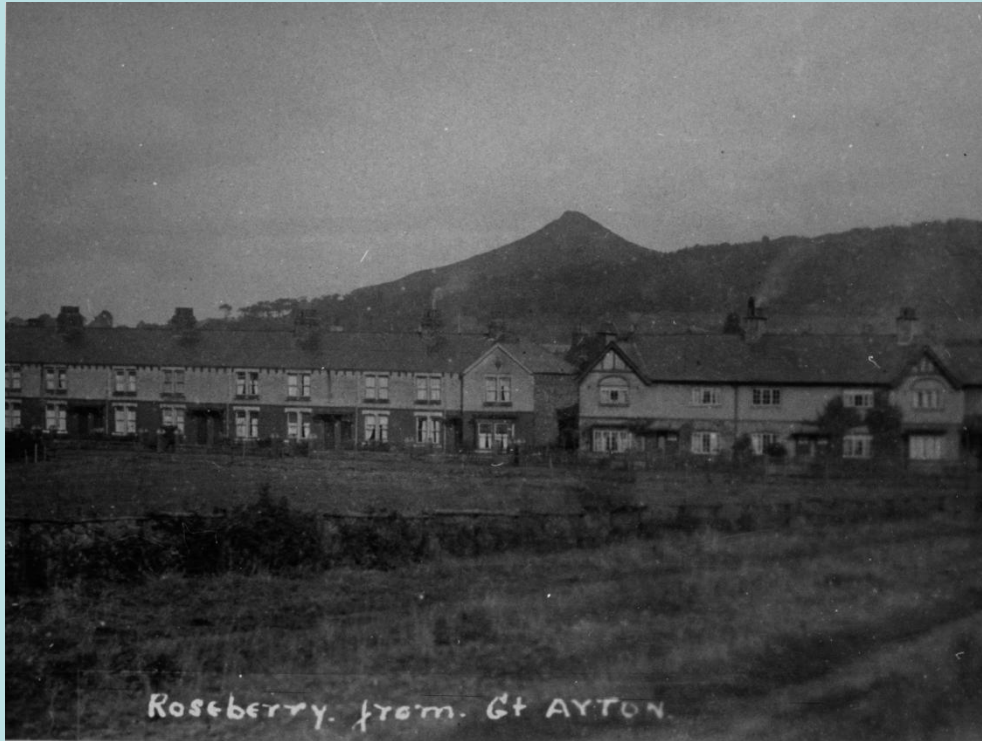
Building to house ironstone miners

Recorded in 1908 minutes that 12 cottages on east side and 8 on west side of Munkaley Rd were to be:

“built to provide accommodation for the increase of workmen by the working of ironstone from the Roseberry and Easby mines. The houses are each furnished with a pan-closet and the water supply is from wells on the premises. The water is found on a bed of gravel below from 5 to 7 feet of strong blue clay, and sets of four and six houses have the use of one pump”

Munkaley Rd (Monkabecka St)

Cottages in Poole Terrace built in 1908



Where did Munkabecka (or Munkaley) come from?



- Munkabecka existed on OS maps till 1950
- Possibly named after Monkey Beck near the Thistlethwaite family home in upper Dentdale

Bradley's Terrace

Bought by George Bradley to house his miners

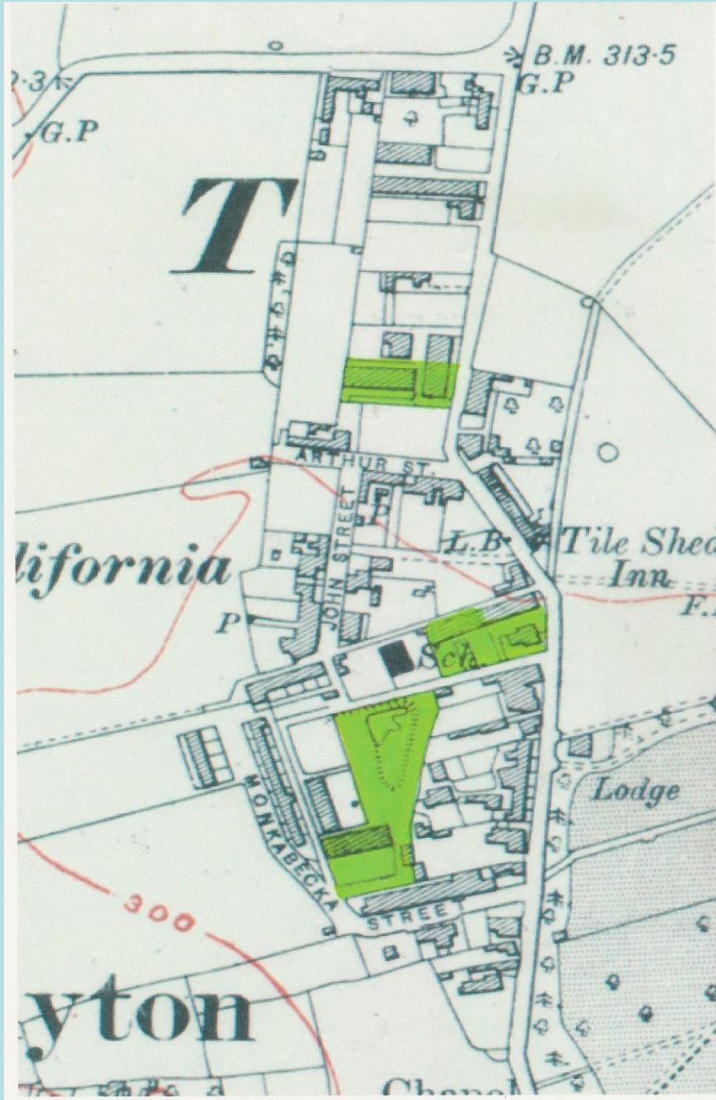


South side built in 1870s



North side built in 1909

Influence of William Pearson, local builder



Between 1908 and 1914
he bought/sold over 20
plots throughout California

Cliff Terrace extended westwards



Southfield Terrace (built 1909)



“Pearsonville”



Victorian entrepreneurship lives in Ayton!



- By 1898 Jeremiah Thistlethwaite adds land ownership to his grocery business
- Starts to develop area between Romany Rd (Monkabecka St) and Guisborough Rd

A man of strong principles!



Land sold to Messrs
Duchars & Bowers on
condition that

*“ .. houses shall not be used for
sale or manufacture of ale,
wine, beer, spirits or
intoxicating liquor and no
noxious or offensive trade or
business shall at any time be
carried out...”*

Part of “Thistlethwaite Estate” (built 1909-1912)



Mary Newton's Cottage



Edwardian semi-detached villa “Wayside”



Note the use of concrete gateposts & window surrounds



Norman Wilson's grocer in 1929 and now..

By 1919 California looked like this



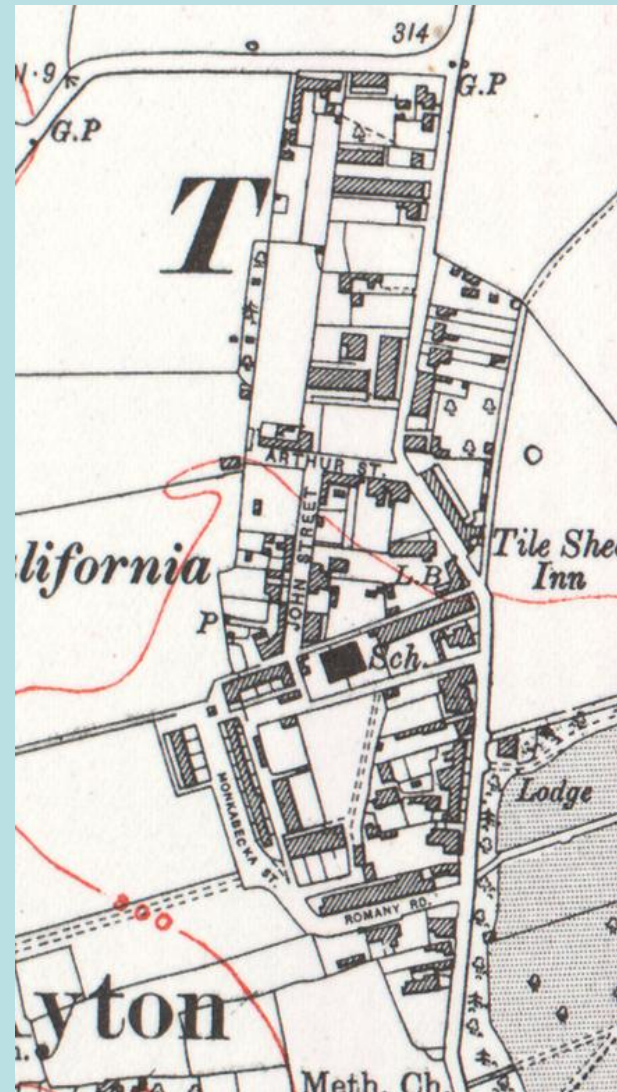
California into the 1920s



.....but limited growth up to 1930



1919



1930

... now completely surrounded!



The “Tilsheds” now and then



Newton Road by Cliff Rigg House



California, Great Ayton.



Taking a gentle stroll down memory lane!



Sources

Tithe map of 1847

OS Maps of 1856, 1892, 1919, 1930

Census returns of 1861,1871,1881,1901

Bulmer's parish directories dated 1890, 1929

Ayton Parochial Sanitary Committee minutes 1899-1920

Registers of Deeds at NYCRO

Durham Mining Museum records

Reports of Medical Officer of Health 1899-1913

Village photographic archive

Personal recollections by several residents of California