

Foreword by V. Gilbert

Life and Times of Francis Mitchell  
Born Rillington 1845 and listed as Wheelwright in 1905

“ We think you may be interested in this” I was told and shown this treasure of a book and could not put it down.

Do as I did and launch straight in to find early chores of an agricultural lad to full scale working weeks of a team , father son and brother jobbing around the village repairing carts, gates, homes. He was joiner, wheelwright, undertaker and much more.. Village life unfolds its joys and sorrows, tragedies and festivals. Francis tells how he ‘swept the yard., George got married today’

Checking GRO shows George Sunman Mitchell married Catherine on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1873.

To verify the author of the book, called ‘self’ in the notes I checked GRO when he wrote ‘made coffin for own baby’ .Francis was the father of Edith Mitchell who died at 3 months on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb1883

Much of interest too in the surrounding villages, sales, shows, regular trips to market. We learn where he ordered timber, what kind, what for and even some prices. Many family names mentioned, properties too, he made axe handles, wheelbarrows, privy seats, Doors and windows, cradles and cupboards and full scale carts. Every village must have had such a handiman keeping it all in good repair.

Written sometimes in haste and sometimes with great care it is the fascinating story of life in a Yorkshire village of 19<sup>th</sup> century.It has laid in a loft until it came to light many years later when old cottages were demolished.

How lucky for us it was kept from destruction and shown to me when modern technology means we can all share it without spoiling it.

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