

John “Owd Bummy” Doodson

Previously made up of two separate trees
(“Bolton 1911” and “Ashton 1911”)

Family trees prepared by Mike Doodson

Sources of information: Census returns for 1841-1911 plus Births, Marriages and Deaths records
Many thanks to Liz Henry in San Francisco (descendant of Ellen Doodson (b.1842))

Updated
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Entries in **bold** type - given (Christian) names
Entries in *italic* type - spouse surnames

"Owd Bummy" Dootson (John b1777)

Extracts from piece written by Simeon Dyson and contributed by Marjorie Pollard

There are many yet who remember John Dootson, better known as "Owd Bummy", who up to 1863 resided at High Stile Fold.
He was born at Dover Castle on the 23rd August, 1777. His father was a soldier in the 18th Foot, and took part in the American War, being present at the battle of Bunker's Hill.

He obtained his discharge from the Army, retiring with a pension, and came to reside at High Stile when John was six years of age.
Though the house underwent many alterations, he continued to reside in it until its dilapidated condition excited the fears of those about him, and after living in "the fowl" for more than eighty years, John went to a grand-daughter's in Old Hall Street.

Considering his age he being in his 90th year, his health was very good and his memory remarkably fresh. The tales of his boyhood days and his personal recollections of the state of Farnworth and Kearsley 70 or 80 years ago were full of interest. He used to say he could stand in the fold and see all over the moor at once. The whole of this locality he said, was one vast piece of waste land, mostly covered with rushes, with here and there a hut built of clay and straw and "radling".

[...]

John's grandfather erected the original Blackhorse Inn, or rather a building which stood on the same site, or a little further back. It was called the Sun Public House, and the lower end served as a kitchen to the present Black Horse premises for many years.

[...]

Dootson's father once received a letter from his brother, a soldier in Egypt, which cost him several shillings to release.

[...]

In a prayer book which old John possessed was written all the names of his family for more than a hundred years back and the dates on which they were born. On a blank page of the book was the following inscription "book was sent by Izabel Dootson as a present to John Dootson in the year 1762". John was a soldier laying in Dublin, Ireland, and father to the John referred to in this article, and Izabel was his grandmother.

Through most of his long life John was a hand loom weaver, but the latter portion of his life was spent as a weaver on power looms.

