

GLENTHORNE is not an old house as old houses go, and has no direct literary or historical associations, and so does not appear in any history or journal.

The earliest reference is when Wordsworth lived at Allan Bank from 1808 to 1811. Allan Bank can be seen from the front lawn of Glenthorne, looking uphill to the right. On the site of Bankside, nearest to Allan Bank, was their cow shed, in which they kept one cow. This is not as comical as it seems, for in those days there were no herds in a poor valley like Easedale, and a farmer who supplied milk would have only five or six cows. An ordinary household would find one cow sufficient for its needs: there were no deliveries in bottles in those days,

Allan Bank was built by Mr. Crump, a Liverpool attorney, and was completed in 1808. After Wordsworth left, the Allan Bank house and estate were bought by Mr. Dawson, who built several cottages on the estate, one of which was Glenthorne. It was built in 1834, and started as a "two up, two down" cottage, serving as the lodge to Allan Bank, Mr. Dawson's coachman being the occupant. There was a toll bar outside the cottage on Easedale Road, which at that time was a cart track leading up to Easedale village.

The part of Bankside nearest to Allan Bank was built in 1834, and the part nearest to Glenthorne in 1838. It housed three coaches and six horses, with further accommodation for a man who used the outside stone steps to reach his two rooms at the Glenthorne end. It also contained two hay lofts, a corn room and a saddle room. The shields which are on the outside walls of Glenthorne and Bankside, bearing a date and the initials T.M.D. suggest Mr. Dawson's name, but as there are several properties in Ambleside with similar dates and initials, they could be the monogram of the builder.

By 1840 the Rev. Edward Jefferies lived at Glenthorne, which was known as 'The Old Vicarage'. (The Rectory was let as a lodging house, as it was before and after this time.) The Rev. Jefferies was curate from 1840 to 1862, and rector from 1863 to 1878, living in Grasmere for 38 years. He married Miss M.B. Dawson of Allan Bank (Mr. Dawson's younger daughter), having christened her twenty years earlier. Their grave is near Wordsworth's Corner in Grasmere churchyard, and from the dates we learn that the Rev. Jefferies dies in 1893, aged 78, and that his wife, Martha Beatrice, in 1911, in her seventy-second year.

By 1857 the house was called Glenthorne, and the back part was added in 1867. When Rev. Jefferies left the house in 1878, his mother continued to live there, and after his death in 1893 his widow returned to spend the rest of her life at Glenthorne. Mrs. Jefferies left Glenthorne and Allan Bank to two nieces, Beatrice Isabella Mildred Twamley and Diana Edith Sophia Butt.

The properties were put up for sale in 1911, but appear to have been withdrawn. Allan Bank and part of the stables (now Bankside) belonging to Allan Bank were bought in 1917 by Canon Rawsley (1851-1920), who was co-founder of the National Trust. Canon Rawsley lived at Allan Bank until his death.

Linton Taylor bought Glenthorne and the Glenthorne part of the stables in 1923, and on his death in 1961 he left these properties to the Westmorland and Yorkshire Quarterly Meetings (now General Meetings) of the Religious Society of Friends, the Quakers. The Quarterly Meetings agreed to rent on long lease the National Trust portion of the stable block, and were thus able to convert the whole of that building into what is now known as Bankside.

It is doubtful whether any other house in Grasmere which is more than a hundred years old has changed hands so little.

The cottages now known as Fieldside 1, 2 and 3 were formerly the home of the Wilson family, who owned the joinery business at Fieldside. (The whole area comprising Glenside, the three cottages and the adjacent housing estate is called Fieldside.) The Cottage Block - that part of Glenside furthest from the road - was an office block and store room, and the actual joinery was situated in the roadside buildings. At the height of its prosperity, forty men worked in the business, most of them outside on building work. The Wilsons rented the now abandoned quarry on Helm Crag, which had produced stone from which these properties and Glenthorne were built. Gunpowder for quarrying was stored in Fieldside 3, and two men were permanently employed in the quarry. As the business contracted, the Wilsons' house was sold to make the three cottages as they are now. The Cottage Block was converted from offices into a house and storeroom, the new office being built onto the joinery (now the laundry). The whole property was bought by the General Meetings to provide additional accommodation for Glenthorne in 1967. Conversion was carried out in the winter 1967/8 and it opened as Glenside in the spring of 1968.