

## TOP BARN SAWYERSGARTH

Top Barn Sawyersgarth was converted from the 'top barn' at Sawyersgarth in 1973-4. The conversion was designed by Jonathan Wager and most building work was carried out by Geoff Metcalfe (son of Tom Metcalfe, tenant farmer at Sawyersgarth 1945-1959) and his uncle Walter Metcalfe (tenant farmer Sawyersgarth 1939-45). Previous to conversion the barn housed six young stock and four milk cows in a former stable, and stored hay in the mew and on the boax. At the same time a lean-to extension was added to Bottom Barn to make more versatile accommodation for the farm. The Top Barn garden was created from some sheep pens and part of the croft. A large amount of gravel and river boulders were removed to lower the ground in front of the new house.

Occupiers: Jonathan and Birgitta Wager (Jonathan born London 1937, Birgitta *née* Sjostrom born Umea, Sweden 1939) and their three children, Nils (b. Cambridge 1964) Annika (b. Durham 1967) and Henrik (b. Manchester 1969). Jonathan is Lawrence and Phyllis Wager's eldest son. Lawrence had lived with his father Morton and brother Hal in Arncliffe during school holidays from 1908. Sawyersgarth was acquired by Jonathan's parents in 1939 since when he has spent most holidays at Sawyersgarth and from 1974, at Top Barn with his family. Jonathan and Birgitta live near Manchester, where Jonathan was a member of Manchester University and Birgitta worked at Christie Hospital.

Sawyersgarth comprises three houses and 170 acres of land. In 1966, Sawyersgarth main house was extended and divided into two. The Wager family have continued to occupy one part and a succession of tenants both farming, and for a while non-farming, have occupied the other half.

The succession of tenants is interesting. When the farm was acquired by the Wagers from Major Walker (Patrick Walker's grandfather) the tenants at the time were Mr and Mrs Campbell (John Campbell's parents). They had given notice and were leaving for a farm near Bolton Abbey. Walter Metcalfe was the next tenant at Sawyersgarth until 1945 when his brother Tom Metcalfe and family from Halton Gill took the farm. (Tom and Walter had lived at Sawyersgarth with their parents early this century). Tom retired in 1960. The next tenant was Peter Sedgwick. He farmed Sawyersgarth until 1965 when he left for a dairy farm in Lothersdale.

By this time a full-time farmer needed more land than was available at Sawyersgarth so the land was let to George Emmott of Armistead Farm, Litton, and part of the house was enlarged and improved and let to Keith and Freda Brook (Tom Metcalfe's daughter). When the Brooks moved to Halton Gill, a young family, the Bowdens, took the tenancy of the cottage for a few years.

Meanwhile, George Emmott had left the dale to farm at Stanton in Peak. Tom Cowan of Stonelands rented the land at Sawyersgarth for a few years. He was followed by Malcolm Campbell. However, when the house became vacant in 1979, Cath and John Campbell came to live at Sawyersgarth letting their son Malcolm take over Castle Farm, Arncliffe. John took the land making a residential part-time farm unit again. In 1996 the Campbells retired to live in Settle and Roger and Gillian Gibson and family came to live and farm at Sawyersgarth.