

## RECOLLECTIONS OF EARBY 60 YEARS AGO

Born at Hilltop in 1848, in time we came into the village to live, and time passed 'till at the age of two, I was sent to school (Mr. Bentley's) and sat round the stove in the babies' class, which I remember well. I can see through my mind's eye the large picture card of the Children of Israel passing through the Red Sea, and Miss Ann Bentley coming to teach us. There were Wm. Dodgson, Thomas Lee, Alfred Varley, John Bradley from Thornton, Jim Smith, Jim Bailey, Jim Watson, and a number of others I have forgotten, who grew up together as best we could, having no night school to go to, to keep us out of mischief, and so we crowded together in a corner by James Brown's house, with Tommy o' Betts telling tales of what he had heard and seen, and what a treat it was to go to Colne and Skipton to look at the shops and stalls in the streets.

I remember father taking me to Skipton to see the decorations at the time of the Crimean War, walking both ways. The first black puddings I ever saw were at Colne Fair ; four of us walked there and back with twopence each in our pockets. Once the soldiers came and camped at Old Anthony's (Gate House) and that was a treat and when it was fine and dark we used to get Joe o' Tibbies to tell us all about plug drawing - all this when I was about seven.

### SECTION MISSING

much she came out and followed us and caught the last one and gave him a good "clout over the ear hole" and knocked his neck out, and if it had not been for Tom Pickles (clogger), who pulled it in again, he would have died, which nearly sent Jane Wad off her head.

Then there came the first policeman and ordered us lads about our business and tried to keep us in order. About this time people were having a lot of trouble with the doffers, who made mischief at every end and side. A lad named "Feedum" led them into all sorts of mischief - a terror to the neighbourhood. By the way, I am glad to say the Baptist people got hold of him and he is now a respectable member of society.

Time has altered things since Tom Shuttleworth was the Constable for the district, and Jim Berry, the tailor, used to parade the village, and Old Judy blowing his trumpet and crying "Toffee for rags and bones."

"Well, there were a few good men and women at that time. John Pickles, my granddad, James Brown, Thomas Turner, James Dodgson, John Taylor, John Wilkinson (Kalick), Mr. Sephton, John Green, Thomas Lee, Mr. Wilson (who came from Thornton to the Wesleyan Chapel), Tommy Smith, and Thomas at Vargis, John Bailey (Stoney Bank), Rbt. Parker, Tom o'Dicks, Joe o'Dicks, Tom -o'-Bill -o'-Wills- o'-Joe -o'-Dick's, William Crowther, Bill Edmondson, Old Mary Edmondson, and my father and mother, Mary Whiteoak, Old Tom Waddington, the village doctor, Ellen Dodgson, Martha Pickles, Jack Pickles, Mary Pickles, Wm. Pickles, (Schoolmaster), Uncle Henry Pickles, famous violinist and a number of others, I still remember, but whose names I have forgotten. Sam o'Nanny's and his wife, who used to come "muck spreading," - marvellous how they lived!

I am living in one of the most beautiful towns in England, and enjoy the sea air and nice flat streets and beautiful shops, but still I have had time to think where I sprung from.

J. Sanderson (Southport) Ref. Pioneer 28th December 1923