

Earby Chronicles



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SOCIETY AIMS:
to raise awareness,
foster an interest
and facilitate
research into the
heritage of Earby &
district including
Thornton in
Craven, Sough,
Kelbrook, Harden,
Hague and
Salterforth.

OFFICIALS
Chairman & NRCC
Rep. :
Bob Abel
phone 01282 843850

Vice Chairman & Edi-
tor of Chronicles:
Stephanie Carter
Phone 01756 794099

Secretary :
Margaret Brown
phone 01282 843932

Treasurer & Archi-
vist :
Wendy Faulkner
phone 01282 863160

Archivist:
Margaret Greenwood
phone 01282 843394

Web Site / IT/
Programme Secretary
Vacant

Committee:
Trevor Tattersall
Colin Dalby
Ken Ranson

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WORLD WAR 1 SILKS

Although silk embroidered postcards first appeared at the Paris Exhibition in 1900, they reached the height of popularity at the time of the First World War (1914-1918). A unique war-time industry, silk embroidered postcards were created by French and Belgian women to sell as souvenirs to soldiers posted on the Western Front. Strips of silk organza were originally hand-embroidered by women and girls in their homes or at refugee camps, but as demand increased, production was moved to Parisian factories. Batches of embroidered strips were sent for cutting and mounting onto postcards, which were made available to purchase for a few francs each. They were hugely popular with British and American soldiers who bought the cards as mementos to send home to loved ones, it is estimated that some 10 million silk embroidered postcards were made.

Images found on the cards include forget-me-nots and pansy flowers, bluebirds, patriotic messages and symbols such as the flags of the allies, regimental crests and badges.



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AN UNSUNG HERO OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR THOMAS LEONARD

The following account was reported in the 13th March 1931 edition of the
Craven Herald:

Speech and Hearing Restored After Five Years Salterforth Shell-Shock Victim

“A miraculous recovery of speech and hearing by a shell-shocked ex-serviceman who had been without these faculties for over five years is reported from the village of Salterforth. This is not all for the man has partially regained his eyesight which left him six weeks ago. The miracle in its triple form took place on Monday morning, and the subject is Mr Thomas Leonard (aged 44) of Chapel Street, Salterforth.

A Craven Herald reporter heard the details from Mr Leonard’s wife and was afterwards privileged to have a few words with Mr Leonard himself, who is confined to bed. It appears that Mr Leonard has suffered severely from shell shock ever since the war, and became so bad in November 1925 that he developed neurasthenia, which rendered him both deaf and dumb. In spite of these deficiencies, he went back to the mill at Salterforth and worked fairly regularly as a weaver up to nine weeks ago. The neurasthenia then made him bedfast, and his wife, also a weaver, had to come home to nurse him. After three weeks the nervous disorder spread to his eyes and he became totally blind – a piteous, almost helpless figure.

This week’s happy sequel is best described in Mrs Leonard’s own words. “On Monday morning I took him some food upstairs”, she said. “I touched him to attract his attention as I always did. He did not move; he seemed in a kind of stupor so I touched him again. Then suddenly he sat up, opened his eyes very wide and said “Where am I?” “I could hardly believe it was true” said Mrs Leonard, whose eyes shone as she told the story, “and I ran out at once for one of the neighbours. My husband’s speech and hearing are now quite normal”, she went on, “but it is only with great exertion and pain that he is able to open his eyes. The doctor thinks it marvellous”.

Our representative found Mr Leonard wonderfully cheerful considering the ordeal he had gone through. He chatted and joked and opened his eyes for the benefit of his visitor. “It feels like pins and needles sticking into me above my eyes”, he declared, “and there is a noise in my head as though I was on a battleship”.

The only fear of this great-hearted hero is that he may have to go into hospital for nerve treatment before the youngest of his four children, who is away from home, returns. “You see, she has never heard her daddy speak because she is only five years old” Mrs Leonard explained. “We can’t stop my husband from talking now, he is so delighted that he has got his voice back”,

Mr Leonard was one of that gallant band of British “Tommys” who went out to France in 1914, and are best known as the “Old Contemptibles”. Before 1914 he had served with His Majesty’s Forces in India and Malta, and though working as a weaver in Barnoldswick when war broke out, he was in the Army Reserve. He went out immediately with the Lancashire Fusiliers and was in the battle of Mons. On Christmas Day 1914 he was sent down the line suffering from shell shock. So bad was he that he was sent home and did not return to France until August 1916. Three months later he was severely wounded in the head and back, and was discharged as unfit the following year.

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Mr Leonard, who was a bomber and sniper, has never recovered properly from either the shell shock or the effect of the head wound. His pension is only 8s a week and throughout his illness the whole family have had to live on this slender allowance, supplemented by Health Insurance benefit. It is understood that the matter is receiving the attention of the war pensions authorities.

Although the case is not without parallel, it is extraordinary for a victim of shell shock to regain three lost faculties simultaneously. It is hoped that in time Mr Leonard will have the full use of his eyes.”

The above fascinating account led us to look further into the life of Thomas Leonard and with the assistance of Ancestry.co.uk, Ken Ranson and two of Thomas’ grandchildren, Doug Leonard and Janice Agg née Eidson, the following information can be added to Thomas Leonard’s story.

The men who returned from fighting in the 1st World War, often with life changing injuries, are frequently forgotten. The majority were reluctant to speak of their experiences and carried the scars of war throughout their lives. One such unsung hero was Thomas Leonard.

Thomas was born in 1887 in Tottington near Bury. His father Charles and mother Mary Elizabeth were both cotton weavers, and the 1901 census shows that Thomas also, at the age of 14, had become a weaver at Shuttleworth near Ramsbottom. By the time of the 1911 census he had joined the Lancashire Fusiliers as a Private and was serving in India. When war broke out in 1914 Thomas was in the Army Reserve and was despatched to France. His service there is outlined in the above account. He was awarded the following medals: 1914 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Thomas had married Margaret Smith from Salterforth in 1916 . The couple had four children: Margaret, William, Agnes and Douglas, and the family lived at The Nook, Chapel Street, Salterforth. During the 2nd World War William (Billy) was a guardsman and a POW, Margaret was in the WAAF and Douglas in the RN. Agnes married Herbert Eidson and their daughter Janice and Douglas’ son, Douglas, are the two grand-children of Thomas who, have helped with additional information for this article and provided the photographs, as seen on the next page.

For a time Thomas had been a guard at the ammunition store in the Salterforth/Kelbrook Bottoms, prior to returning to weaving. Later he was to suffer more trauma with the removal of both legs through gangrene. Janice recalls the time when her grand-father had one leg removed at Hartley Hospital Colne. The day prior to the operation they marked the toes which had to come off but ended up taking off the whole leg. Doug also recalls his “normal quiet granddad” despite what he had been through. He liked to listen to the football results. When we grand-children spoke to him, very fast as we did, his favourite saying was ‘will’t slow down tha’s speaking double dutch’ “.

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**Children of Thomas and Margaret Leonard
William, Agnes, Margaret and Douglas**



**Thomas Leonard in
later life**



Wedding of Thomas' daughter Agnes. Standing left to right Douglas Leonard senior, Ronnie Akrigg, Herbert Eidson, Agnes Leonard, Thomas Leonard, Edwin Eidson. Seated right Margaret Leonard (Thomas' wife)

Thomas Leonard died in 1962. It doesn't bear thinking about what this man went through. He was one of the unsung heroes of the 1st World War.

Thanks to Ken Ranson, Doug Leonard and Janice Agg for help with information for the above article and for agreeing for us to print the article which originally appeared in the Craven Herald. Editor

THE DICK KERR LADIES

The March guest speaker was Gail Newsholme whose talk on the Dick Kerr Ladies was chosen on two counts. The story of the Dick Kerr Ladies goes back to the First World War, the centenary of which is being commemorated this year, and March was designated Women's History Month.

In the early days of the twentieth century womens' issues were at the forefront. The suffragettes were campaigning for the vote for women and the First World War saw women

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increasingly occupying jobs of the men who had gone to war. Women were working in heavy engineering roles, particularly in munitions factories where there were other hazards, not least the toxicity of some of the substances they were handling and the ever present danger of accidental ignition of the explosives.

Dick Kerr and Co. were mainly manufacturers of tramcars and light railway equipment and had factories in Scotland and Preston. During the First World War a major portion of the manufacturing was turned over to munitions production.

A welfare officer at the factory thought that competitive sport would be good for morale and the women were encouraged to play and the Dick, Kerr Ladies football team came into being. Their mentor and manager was Alfred Frankland, an office worker at the factory.

The team began to play similar women's teams from around the country, raising funds for injured service men.

The team's reputation began on Christmas Day 1917 when a charity match at Preston North End's Deepdale ground attracted a crowd of 10,000 men and women spectators. In one year £600 (£38,000 at today's value) was raised.

After the war the team continued to play, their popularity continuing to increase. In 1921 playing against a team from St. Helens, a crowd of 53,000 spectators was recorded at Goodison in Liverpool with an estimated 10-15,000 who could not get into the ground. Huge amounts of money were being raised for ex-servicemen's charities.

In 1920, international ladies football came to England, when a team from Paris arrived to play the ladies from Dick Kerrs, and a reciprocal tour of France took place.

The team, and ladies football in general, took a knock back in December 1921 when the Football Association banned ladies from playing at any of its members' grounds. The excuse was that playing football had a deleterious effect on women's health and women were not physically able to play the game, this despite the heavy work they had done during the war. They were also accused of inappropriate use of the charity funds raised. The ban was to last for 50 years. Despite this ban, the ladies continued to play in parks and at rugby grounds and Dick Kerrs Ladies were as successful as ever

The ladies organised a tour of Canada and the USA in 1922 but on arrival in Canada their Football Association banned them from playing anywhere in the country but they carried on the tour in the USA.



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The team carried on playing until 1965 when a lack of players caused the team to disband. However, from 1917 the team had an enviable record of played 828 games, won 758, drawn 46 and only losing 24 times. In that period they had raised today's equivalent of 10 million pounds for charity.

Gail introduced us to some of the personalities of the team, many who have now passed away.

Gail's mission has been to research and record as much about the team as possible to prevent the story being lost in the mists of time and she has written the history of the team in a book entitled "In a League of their Own! The Dick, Kerr Ladies 1917–1965" which is due to be re launched later this year.

The FA ban was lifted in 1971, six years after the Dick Kerr Ladies disbanded, and in the last decade women's football has become more and more popular, getting much more press coverage in newspapers and on television with many of the leading football clubs have women's teams.

JOAN WILKINSON OF THE DICK KERR'S LADIES

Margaret Brown



Joan Wilkinson is heading the ball (2nd from the right)

Joan Wilkinson was my dad's cousin, she lived on Reedymoor Terrace in Foulridge, and she played cricket for England ladies in the 1940's and 50's. She joined the WRAAF in WWII and continued in service until retiring in the 1960's at the rank of Warrant Officer. She trained as a PT instructor and because of her sporting talent was encouraged to play all types of sport by the RAF, including cricket, hockey, & football. She played for the Dick Kerr's ladies while being stationed at Weeton near Blackpool during the 1940's and according to her sister Hazel, she did not like the crowds attitudes to the players they often shouted out at the players, so did not continue with football and concentrated on her cricket.

Her obituary in the Daily Telegraph 24th April 2002 is as follows:

JOAN "WILKIE" WILKINSON, who has died aged 83, played for the England Women's cricket team, primarily as a batsman, from 1948 to 1958.

Her style was distinctive. Coming in at number four or five, she was a busy player, appearing to "dance" around the popping crease, as she played forward to kill spin or to drive the ball, and skipping back to cut anywhere between slip and silly point. She was also a tantalising leg-spinner who liked to give the ball plenty of air, although she was called upon as a bowler less often for England than for her county, Lancashire.

Physically, "Wilkie" was short and somewhat rotund; consequently she was not noted for her mobility in the outfield, and preferred to be planted in positions close to the bat, where she proved difficult to pass.

A RAILWAY CAMPAIGN

The Settle to Carlisle Railway was opened in 1876 and, as we heard at last November's talk by Dennis Brickles, was one of the last major Victorian engineering projects to be built by the navvies.

During the 1960s the government appointed Dr Richard Beeching as chief of British Railways with a brief to do what was necessary to make the railways pay their way. As a result many lines and stations around the country were closed. The Settle–Carlisle survived but did suffer; stations along the route were closed and the services were deliberately run down. Then British Rail stated that the Ribbleshead Viaduct was in danger of collapsing and that it would cost over £6million to replace. In December 1983 it was announced that the line was to be closed.

Outrage was followed by action and the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line (FOSCL) formed a joint action committee with other campaign groups to fight the closure plan.

FOSCL had been established in 1981 to fight against the run down of the line. Former member of our Society, the late Marjorie Richardson, had the distinction of being member number one of FOSCL. Marjorie was no stranger to protesting against railway closure as she had been active in fighting the demise of the railway which served Earby.

After a protracted 5 year battle the Settle-Carlisle was saved when on April 11th 1989, Minister of State for Transport, Michael Portillo, signed the lines reprieve. This year FOSCL is celebrating the 25th anniversary of this momentous event.

The photograph, courtesy of Settle Carlisle Railway Journal and photographed by Peter Shaw, was taken at the Falcon Manor Hotel in Settle in 1989 at an event to celebrate the "Line Saved". The late Marjorie Richardson is on the left with (l to r) the then Chairman Brian Sutcliffe MBE, the then vice-chairman the late Gerry Thorpe MBE and Graham Wiltshire.

For more about FOSCL contact www.foscl.org.uk



SAMUEL VARLEY HEAP

Part 2. A man of many talents
Stephanie Carter

Under the leadership of Samuel Heap, New Road School continued to grow. At times, even after the addition of a new wing comprising two classrooms accommodating 60 pupils each, the numbers reached 500 or more, necessitating the use of the teachers' staff room as a classroom. Just before the 1st World War the average attendance of the mixed department was 323 and that of the infants 110.

Mr Heap was also the head (known as the Organising Master/ Certificated Master 1st Class) of the Evening School and Technical Instruction Classes, where teachers included Dr. A Falconer. In 1897 classes were formed in French, English, freehand drawing and geometrical drawing. In 1898 207 students enrolled, reaching 260 by October, with staff comprising S V Heap, H Horbury, Miss Phillip, Mrs E Watson, Mr J G Veevers and Dr A Falconer.

In 1899 classes included needlework and millinery, shorthand, English, book-keeping and three popular classes for military drill were held, together with a class for both male and female ambulance students. In May 1899 a soirée, promoted by the members of the ambulance classes held during the winter, took place in the Victoria Institute. After tea, presided over by Mr Heap, Rev. L B Morris, on behalf of the class members, presented Dr. Falconer with a Gladstone bag and dressing case "as a token of their appreciation and respect for the gentleman who had so kindly given his services and instructed them during the past winter". In April 1899 an ambulance corps was formed in Earby. A meeting was held in the Board School at which sixteen members were enrolled and the officers were appointed as follows: President Rev. L B Morris; secretary and treasurer S V Heap, chief officer David Aldridge; Dr. Falconer became honorary surgeon. So the Earby St John Ambulance Division was formed, to be followed by the Nursing Division attached to the local brigade. The movement grew, with first aid classes of 50 common. The Earby Ambulance and Nursing Division accompanied by their superintendent, S V Heap, played a prominent part in the Earby Hospital Carnivals prior to the First World War. Mr Heap held all the principal offices in the Earby Corps. In 1899, as stated, he was appointed secretary and treasurer; in 1903 the first officer and in 1907 superintendent. In March 1913 Mr Heap had been admitted as Hon. Serving Brother of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

New subjects were offered at the Evening Institute, including physiology, workshop arithmetic, shorthand, chemistry, German, geography, singing, woodwork, dressmaking and commercial practice. Regular inspections and social gatherings took place.

Mr Heap became a prominent member of the Conservative Club and much enjoyed discussions with the members on the topics of the day. Reminiscing in 1935 on his arrival and days in Earby, he wrote:

"The schoolhouse, 'Applegarth', in which I was to live, was not ready for occupation until June, so I lived with Mr Barry Horbury, the then school-master at Kelbrook, for the first three months, and thanks to him and his wife, lived very comfortably. During that time I lunched at the Albion Hall, where I regularly met Mr James Thompson, and many were the arguments we had together. He was, if I remember rightly, interested in the spinning mill, later carried on by Mr Sam Dugdale. Another argumentative acquaintance was Mr Tom Taylor, a one-legged politician; known as 'Tom at th' gate-house.' During the South African War many friendly debates with Riley Hopkinson, Tom Riley, Harry Pickles (of Kayfield) and Inspector Hardisty, took place and are still fresh in my mind. I also remember the caustic

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humour of Jim (James) and Bob (Robert) Shuttleworth, of Thornton Hall, and the familiar figure of Bob (Robert) Nutter in a sou'wester going his rounds with a greengrocer's cart, in the days before he ventured into cotton. I recall, too, the parish meetings, with Wilson Green, the clerk, who always seemed out of breath and the inevitable presence of Parker Greenwood, with his evergreen resolution relating to the original channel of the beck which he maintained to be 'into and through the Thornton parish.' I sometimes hear in my mind's ear the 'Torpedoes all hot' of Ben Lord, and then by the law of association I think of his musical sons, and of the sons of Bill Hartley, the one-time Baptist organist."

Until 1906 Mr Heap lived at 'Applegarth', the school house in New Road. From there he and his growing family moved to 'Thornleigh', 32 Skipton Road. Mrs Betsy Heap's brother, Jonas Bower, had followed her from Holmfirth to Earby, and established a well-stocked greengrocer's shop in Colne Road. One son, Benjamin Frankland (born 1896) had been born to Samuel and Betsy prior to their arrival in Earby. He was followed in Earby by:

Annie Dorothea 1898
Norman Redvers 1900
Barbara Kathleen 1902
Edith Alice 1908
Winifred Lois 1911
(See photograph below)



Mr Heap also achieved success as an amateur violin maker, having made violins since the turn of the century. He secured the Diploma of Merit for Tone in Violin Making at the Glasgow Exhibition in 1904; the Diploma of Merit for Mechanism at the Edinburgh Exhibition in 1909, and he was elected a member of the Cremona Society in 1908. Mr Heap was also the expert in violin matters for the "Woodworker" magazine and himself brought out a book "Violin Construction" which was published by Percival Marshall of the Handicrafts Press Ltd.

In September 1913 he was asked by a Craven Herald representative why he took up the hobby, Mr Heap said "I was certified as a woodwork teacher and happened to be friendly with an artist and photographer in Earby, in whose company I journeyed to Wycoller some fifteen years ago. On our arrival we were joined by a gentleman named Blackburn, an artist and photographer, of Colne. I was using a camera at the time which I had made myself. Mr Blackburn took us into his studio and showed us one or two violins which he had made. On our return journey my artist friend said to me "Look here, it's a very clever thing to make a camera, but the joints are all cabinet-maker's joints and making a fiddle would be quite a different matter. I don't think you could make a fiddle Mr Heap". "I took up the challenge", continued Mr Heap, "and the next time I saw my friend I was able to show him a violin breast, ready carved, which I had made in the meantime. In the course of a few weeks my first violin was complete, and we took it to Grassington where we were camping, and had lively times. The interest engendered by that effort resulted in my taking up the subject as a hobby, and I examined all the good instruments to which I could gain access, including the Balfour "Strad", which changed hands for £2000. I read up all the literature both in English, German and French, and so acquired a knowledge which has stood me in good stead as an amateur violin maker. My interest has been further fostered by close association with Arthur Lancaster of Colne, a violin maker, and the father of Seth Lancaster, the noted cello player. I have made twelve violins altogether and repaired hundreds."

FURTHER POSTSCRIPT TO A CLATTER OF CLOGS

"Thomas Henry, known as TH Hartley, had been a taper at Victoria Mill. After the collapse of the Christopher Bracewell empire, he established a successful firm, Moorhouse and Hartley, in Victoria Mill in 1892" (Clatter of Clogs)

James Moorhouse's cousin twice removed, John Rodney Moorhouse, has done much research into Currer Moorhouse and family. James was Currer's youngest son, who became a successful and wealthy cotton manufacturer with mills in Barnoldswick, Trawden and Orton in Manchester. John has sent us the following family details of James Moorhouse.

Following this the Chronicles Editor has traced James Moorhouse's obituary in the Craven Herald and will add a synopsis of this account.

JAMES MOORHOUSE

By John Rodney Moorhouse,

1855: According to the BMD birth index James Moorhouse was born in the March quarter. This event was registered in Settle. Later sources inform us that he was the youngest son of Currer and Mary Moorhouse who at that time lived in the village of Airton in Malhamdale.

1871: According to the census Currer Moorhouse, his wife Mary and some of their family have moved from Airton to the civil parish of Thornton in Craven. They live in Prospect Place. Currer works as a 'Card Master' in a cotton mill. Son Mason is 22 years old and an under carder, Sarah is 18 and a cotton weaver as is James who is 16, Mary E C is 10 years old. Also living with the family is John Moorhouse who is a 2 year old grandson.

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Although there are no traces of cotton mills in the village of Thornton in Craven the nearby small town of Earby has a long history of cotton spinning and weaving. On the next census [1881] Earby is recorded as a township within the civil parish of Thornton in Craven.

According to his obituary published in the Craven Herald after his death in 1925 James later worked in the offices of the Victoria mill where his father was Card Master.

1881: James married Mary Hargreaves the daughter of Isabella Bibby [2nd marriage to William Bibby in 1859], a grocer from Barnoldswick. Their marriage was registered in the March quarter of this year in the sub-registration district of Barnoldswick. The family can be found on the 1871 census where Mary is described as a cotton weaver.

The census taken on the night of 3/4th April records James Moorhouse, 26 years old, born in Airton and his wife Mary, also 26, and born in Barnoldswick, living in the Hunslet district of Leeds. James is now a 'book keeper'.

Isabella Moorhouse, their first child was born in the September quarter of 1881

1891: The census records James Moorhouse, 36 years old, born in Kirby Malham [Near Airton] and his wife Mary, also 36, born in Barnoldswick, living in Park Terrace Cottages, Rainhall Road, Barnoldswick. They now have three children, Isabella, born in Leeds who is 9 years old, Horace H, born in Thornton, who is 7 and Annie Eleanor aged 3 who was also born in Thornton. James is now described as a 'Cotton manufacturer'

1892: Moorhouse and Hartley (James Moorhouse and Thomas Henry Hartley) - Bought a cotton spinning and weaving business in Earby.

1901: The census records James Moorhouse, 46 years old, born in Airton and his wife Mary, also 46, born in Barnoldswick, living at 'The Willows', Earby. They now have four children, Isabella Mary, born in Leeds and 19 years old, Horace Hargreaves, born in Thornton, who is 17, Annie Eleanor aged 13 and Ramona Alice who is 8 years old, also born in Thornton. James is still a 'Cotton manufacturer'. They also have one domestic servant living with the family, Rosalind Sicks [Sike?] who is 28 years old, born in Rosedale.

1902: Partnership between Moorhouse and Hartley dissolved. Hartley retained the business and James Moorhouse started on his own at Barnoldswick.

1904: According to the inscription on James's Memorial stone in the Gill cemetery in Barnoldswick, "Mary wife of James Moorhouse of Bank Hall Barnoldswick departed this life February 26th 1904 aged 49 years" In the National Deaths Index, the death of a lady named Mary Moorhouse is recorded in the March quarter of 1904 age 49 years [born in 1855]. It is likely that this was James's first wife, Mary Hargreaves, hers is the only record which matches the dates and details on the inscription. This event was registered at Chorlton.

James had a cotton doubling mill at Gorton, SW Manchester, which was in the Chorlton registration district at that time – was Mary taken ill on a visit to Gorton?

Bank House was situated at Bank Hall, Coates, built in 1878 by Christopher Bracewell, son of Billycock. He died there in 1889. 1890 James Slater, cotton manufacture lived there. In 1892 James Moorhouse is listed as living there and by 1893 George Procter. In 1930 the house was offered to the council for a hospital. In 1961 it was bought by Briggs and Duxbury and demolished.

1907: According to the BMD index James Moorhouse married Sarah Ann Hanson. This event was registered in Settle in the September quarter of that year. Sarah Ann, who was born in Liverpool in 1877, can be found on the 1901 census living with her parents, James and Ellen Hanson at 'New House', Bracewell – a tiny village north west of Barnoldswick. Her father was a farmer.

1911: The census records James Moorhouse, aged 56, born at Airton, living with his wife Sarah Ann, aged 38, born in Liverpool. They live at 'The Knoll', Barnoldswick. James is described as a 'Cotton manufacturer' and 'Employer'. Ethel Preston aged 20, a domestic servant is also living with them.

A COTTON TRADE PIONEER

Mr James Moorhouse Dies at Colne (from Craven Herald 6th November 1925)

Mr James Moorhouse, aged 70, died at his home, Leach House in Colne. From office boy at Victoria Mill Earby, James established an enviable business empire at Wellhouse Mills Barnoldswick, Croft Street Mill Gorton and Holden Hall Mill Trawden together with a merchandising business in Manchester. Mr Moorhouse all his life was associated with the Wesleyan Methodist Church and for more than 50 years was a preacher of exceptional ability. He had come to Earby at the age of eight and was closely attached to the Wesleyan Church in the town for 40 years. He became Sunday School superintendent, teacher of the adult Bible class, class leader, Society steward and Circuit Steward. On moving to Barnoldswick he took up similar duties at the Rainhall Road Wesleyan Church.

To illustrate Mr Moorhouse's power of speech, reference is made to a meeting in the Skipton Skating Rink some years ago at which Mr Moorhouse was present. Mr Augustine Birrell had delivered a fluently worded speech, and at the close Mr Moorhouse was called upon to move a resolution. There was an immediate rush for the doors, but in the space of a few seconds the audience was arrested by the telling words of the speaker and remained deeply impressed until he had finished a speech of ten minutes duration.

His funeral service took place at the Earby Wesleyan Church prior to burial at Gill.

OCCUPATIONS IN OLD EARBY

The Late Mr A H Clegg

In 1928/29 the Craven Herald published a series of articles written by Mr A H Clegg under the title "Thornton-in-Craven, Bygone Days in an Ancient Parish". The ancient parish then consisted of four "townships", Thornton, Earby, Kelbrook and Harden. Using the old Parish Registers from 1713 Mr Clegg traced the trades and occupations of the people of the parish long ago.

"It is to be remembered that people seldom ventured far beyond the confines of their own parish and that the parish would be to a large extent a self-contained community and would provide largely for its own needs. Of necessity the skilled craftsmen, artisans, husbandmen and other workers had to supply most of the needs and wants of the inhabitants of the parish. There were many trades and occupations.

The following are some of the occupations and trades recorded in Latin, in the parish registers for the early part of the 18th century: yeoman, a man who owned the land he farmed; agricola, husbandman; parmifici, cloth worker; sutor, cobbler or shoemaker; fabri, a smith; fullonis, a fuller of cloth; sartoris, a tailor; lanus, a butcher; faber lignarii, a carpenter

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or woodworker; calcearii, a limeworker; pectinarii lanini, woolcomber; panificus, baker; candelarii, chandler or candlemaker; lapidarius, quarryman; panificus lintri, linen cloth worker; faber, blacksmith; textor, weaver; fabri ferrarii, shoeing smith; ludimagister, schoolmaster; generosis, gentleman.

This list, which is not exhaustive, shows that the parish was capable of supplying all that was necessary for carrying on the life and work of the community. The mention of limestone workers indicates that limestone was being quarried at Thornton even in those days and was probably used to improve the fertility of the land. The chandler calls to mind the time when tallow candles would be the only means of providing artificial light. The ludimagister was probably the schoolmaster of the old Windle Grammar School at Earby. An analysis of the occupations of the men mentioned in the registers is given below for the years 1723, 1735, 1750, and 1800:

1723	yeomen 2, husbandmen 13, clothworker 1, weavers 18, smith 1
1735	husbandmen 11, weavers 10, tailor 1, cloth fuller 2, carpenter 1

These figures seem to indicate that at the beginning of the 18th century the number of people in the parish engaged on the land and in the domestic industry of cloth working were about equal.

1750	weavers 17, husbandmen 8, labourers 5, smiths 2, yeoman 1, carpenter 1, woolcomber 1, cordwainer 1, butcher 1
1800	weavers 30, husbandmen 3, woolcomber 3, hatters 5, labourers 4, farmers 6, joiner 1, tailor 1

By 1750 the proportion of agricultural workers and textile workers had altered, there being more people engaged in clothmaking than on the land. By 1800 a greater proportion still were engaged in cloth or hatmaking and a less proportion on the land. During the 18th century there was a gradual development of cloth making and similar work and agriculture employed less and less people.

A WANDERER'S TALE—THORNTON –IN-CRAVEN

(Taken from the Craven Herald 1931)

There is not a great deal of Thornton-in-Craven, but what there is of it is of sufficient interest to make one wish there was more of it. And that, of course, is saying a great deal. At the outset, it seemed quite likely that half an hour, or an hour at the outside, would suffice to look around the some thirty or so houses that comprise the village. Actually, however, we stayed there the greater part of the beautiful autumn afternoon, and it was growing dusk when we again set our footsteps along the wonderful avenue of trees that stretches almost to the neighbouring village of Elslack.

About most villages there is something that remains with one – a vivid memory – a character, a tree, a brook, we call one or the other to mind whenever the name is mentioned. And at Thornton it is the avenue of trees. For us, at any rate, the very mention of the place will conjure up visions of long avenues of trees, touched and tinted to perfection by the great artist of autumn. What a variety of trees there are here – ash, oak, elm, lime, sycamore, chestnut and beech! In the spring and summer they furnish a delightful green canopy overhead, but in the autumn, when the leaves of each take on a distinct colouring ere they

fall, the whole is embellished with rich browns, yellows and reds.

There are four approaches to the village. Two are provided by the road which runs from Elslack to Earby, a third branches off to Barnoldswick, and the fourth runs upwards from the railway station, half a mile distant. With the exception of the winding roadway from Earby, the entrances to the village are flanked on either side by trees. It would be interesting to learn why the tree-loving folks of Thornton never turned their attention to this exception.

Of recent years the traffic along this route has increased out of all proportion; so it as well perhaps that the outlook was left un-obscured, for it is doubtful if anywhere you will find a mile of roadway so fraught with danger. Do not run away with the idea that this approach is without beauty. On a fine, clear day, the view of the valley and the hills on the right is as fine as you will find in a day's march in these parts. In the olden days, with the Earby folks, this was a favourite lovers' walk; motors of course spoil that sort of thing.

A visit to the church will amply repay anyone who cares to walk a short distance along the Barnoldswick road. For so small a village the churchyard is large. A glance at the headstones was sufficient to reveal that many Earby folk have preferred this to any other as a last resting place. The church itself is built of grey sandstone, and possesses a striking and impressive stone tower. Above the porch, and about half way up that side of the tower is a splendid example of a wall sundial. Not far away, in the churchyard, is the walled-in spring. Into the crystal waters some thoughtless persons have thrown various things, including an old shoe.

On the left of the road, midway between the church and the main road, are situated the alms-houses, erected by a former native of these parts. An inscribed stone above the doorway of the house reads:

1815

*"These Alms houses for five poor women
Were erected and endowed pursuant to
The will of Joseph Smith, late of the City
Of London, Banker, a native of this
Parish, out of the residuary Estate of
Rachel Smith, his widow"*

At the top of the village, on the right hand side of the road, are to be seen the remains of what were once the village stocks. These were formed by two stone slabs, held in position by two upright pillars. The upper flag, which is missing, worked as a groove, and had cut out of it half-circles corresponding with those of the remaining stone. On the same side, at the bottom of the hill, is another village landmark in the form of a giant lime tree. This has been walled around, and provides a handy waiting-place as well as a convenient playground for the village children. The village shop, the only one of its kind, also serves as the post office. The place is without a public-house, a most unusual state of affairs. We had almost come to the conclusion that the village was without a school, but eventually we found it tucked away up a little lane.

Most of the cottages are of a good age, and are notable for their windows of many panes. One particular house had windows composed of no less than thirty two separate squares. The good housewife needs someone's sympathy when they require cleaning. There are, however, several really fine dwelling houses in the village, large and commodious, with well-kept grounds. Of course, the gardens are past their best now, but we noticed several good shows of chrysanthemums.

RESOURCES FOR TRACING WORLD WAR I ANCESTRY

As part of the Society's Lottery Funded World War I project, Fiona McIntyre from Lancashire County Heritage was invited to give a talk on the resources available in Lancashire's libraries, museums and archive offices for tracing the story of World War I ancestors.

Lancashire County Heritage was set up a couple of years ago as a platform to showcase the county's diverse heritage collections and to guide potential users through these resources.

Every family in the country will have been affected in some way by the Great War and the Society is trying to encourage both members and the public at large to collect and research their own family stories of that period. It is hoped that this research can then be archived in the Community Archive for future generations.

A useful start is to access the Lancashire Library catalogue on line to find out what books are available. Some books will be specific to a particular area for example The Nelson Leader Local War Record, the Craven War Book or the Colne and Nelson Times War Album all of which feature local people who fought and died. Other books may give general information; battalion books often detail the actions the soldiers fought in.

Accrington library has a World War I special collection and the Lancashire Archives in Preston house a large collection of council minutes which usually give information about war-time conditions in their town or city.

There are memorials and rolls of honour which can be accessed and a wide range of pamphlets and other ephemera.

Local newspapers are a rich source of information on people and actions during the war. Most of the larger libraries have copies on micro film of the local newspapers covering their area.

Much information is now available through the internet and Lancashire Libraries have the facility to use the major on line resources free of charge at the library and in some cases from your home computer. The London Times newspaper archive can be accessed in this way where contemporary reports on the actions abroad can be read, helping hopefully to fill out the story of an ancestor.

The Proquest data base contains journals and magazines produced by the soldiers themselves in the trenches eg the "Wipers (Ypres) Times".

Lancashire Lantern is building up a digital collection of photographs from all over the county and some of these will be relevant to the War in a particular area often with a picture of troops leaving for war service,

Two of the most useful resources available through the library computers are the Ancestry and Find My Past websites. Normally a subscription is payable to use these resources but Lancashire Libraries have free access for members,

Amongst the records they contain are military records, for example the indexes to the medal rolls which tell what medals an individual service person was awarded. The full record to which this index refers is housed at the National Archives at Kew and this may give further information but will need a visit.

Each service person would have had a service record, a synopsis of their military career. However during World War II 60-70% of these records were destroyed when the repository housing them was bombed. The surviving records are gradually being digitised and put on line

There are also the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with de-

Earby Chronicles

tails of persons killed in service.

For general back ground information, the 1911 census records are a useful area to probe

Other useful sites are Cravens Part in the Great War, The Long Long Trail and the London Gazette. In the latter, information about promotions and military honours is recorded.

The talk was to be followed up in May, with a “hands on” training session hosted on the Society’s behalf by Lancashire Community Heritage at Earby Library.

ANCESTOR RESEARCH EVENT AT EARBY LIBRARY

As a follow up to the talk by Fiona McIntyre, the Society organised an event at Earby Library, funded through the Heritage Lottery Grant, where Fiona demonstrated the use of computers and the internet in researching World War I ancestors. Fiona guided the participants through the various means of obtaining information from different web sites. Lancashire Libraries subscribe to the two main research web sites, “Ancestry” and “Findmypast” which are free of charge to use at our local Lancashire Libraries. Both of these can be used on home computers but a personal subscription cost is involved.

Other sources available through Lancashire Library’s digital library were demonstrated.



Fiona McIntyre (left) and the participants at Earby Library

END OF AN ERA Pennine Motor Services Cease Trading

The demise of Pennine Motor Services could not pass without mention. On Friday 16th May the familiar orange and black, rather old fashioned buses, ceased to run on Craven's roads.

Established in 1925, the company did well to survive the deregulation frenzy of 1986 when competition became king. The company began its foray into West Craven and East Lancashire's more lucrative routes at the expense of some of the North Yorkshire and the Lancaster services.

However, Pennine Motor Services has itself now become the victim of competition on the Skipton- Burnley route from Transdev which together with low subsidies for free travel from North Yorkshire County Council are said to have brought the company to an unviable state.

Our photograph was taken at Earby bus station on the last day and shows the 13-05 215 service from Burnley ready to depart from Earby for Barnoldswick and Skipton.



EARBY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR – BOOK LAUNCH

The Society's WWI commemorations continued on Saturday May 31st with the launch of the Society's latest book "Earby in the First World War". The book has been excellently researched and written by Stephanie Carter and, using letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, photographs and family memories, she has documented the story of the effect on Earby and its people of the Great War.

Special guests were Councillor Smith Benson, Mayor of Pendle, and Peter Thompson. Councillor Benson has more than a passing interest in the history of WWI having a collection of family memorabilia and he has taken a particular interest in the Society's commemoration activities.

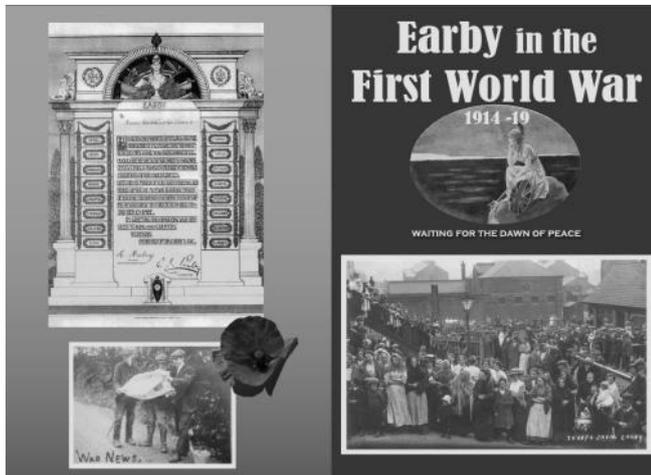
Earby Chronicles

Although Peter Thompson now lives in Barnoldswick he spent a good few years living in Earby and was at one time steward of Earby Band Club.

Together with Ian Lambert, he has been instrumental in finding missing names to add to Barnoldswick's War Memorial and has done research into those Barnoldswick men and women who gave their lives for our country during the last century.

A very good attendance ensured a perfect unveiling of the book and initial sales were buoyant.

The book is available at a subsidised price, thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding, of £8-00 from the Society (contact Wendy Faulkner 01282 863160 or via info@earbyhistory.co.uk.) from Earby Mines Museum or from Barnoldswick Library. For copies by post in UK add £3-70 for postage and packaging. Overseas rates on request.



PROGRAMME

June, July, August – no meeting

Tuesday 16th September "The Secret Life of Charles Dickens",
Pat Osborne

Saturday/Sunday 18/19 October EDLHS World War 1 Exhibition

Tuesday 21st October "Guy Fawkes – Yorkshireman"
Gillian Waters

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DATA PROTECTION ACT

Members details are held on computer for mailing and compilation of a membership list. The details will not be used for any other purpose without the express permission of the member. If you do not wish your details to be held on computer please inform the Treasurer immediately.

THE SOCIETY

Meets at the Community Centre, New Road, EARBY on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. (except for outside visits).

**ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
£7.00
UK £9.00
Overseas £13.00**

Contents:

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of information in this edition, this cannot be guaranteed.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget this is your newsletter. Send in articles, photos and any other anecdotes, so that we get as wide a flavour of Earby & District, yes that means Thornton in Craven, Kelbrook, Sough, Harden and Salterforth as well.

EDITOR

Stephanie Carter
01756 794099