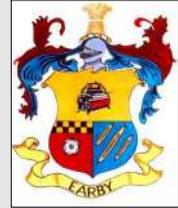


Earby Chronicles



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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.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

The Editor



On the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, commemorated stunningly at Thiepval on 1st July, we remembered with love and gratitude our local heroes, many the recruits of Kitchener's Volunteer Army, who gave their lives for king and country and whose names were proudly acclaimed at a service at our own village war memorial.

Percy Stead (1st July)

William Moor (7th July)

Thomas McNamara (7th July)

Thomas James Treverton (12th July)

James Moles (18th August)

Douglas Smith (18th August)

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At home in Britain the news of the Somme Offensive was initially cheery and positive, with War Correspondents reporting that after a fortnight “British troops have already occupied the German front line – Well begun – Well done.” By the time the Craven Herald was published on 14th July the Editor told readers that “the splendid advance on the Western Front had brought in its train the loss and disablement of brave men connected with the Craven district... casualty lists make sad reading.” It would take time before news of the horror of the “Great Push” reached Earby and District. In the month of July 1916 alone the Earby casualties detailed below were reported in the Craven Herald.

Pte. Hartley Spencer, 7th Duke of Wellington’s Regiment, 31 School Lane, Earby was wounded during the Big Push on 3rd July by a piece of shrapnel, and was now in the base hospital. In a letter home he wrote “I was wounded in the left arm by a piece of shrapnel. I was only in the trenches about an hour. It was like hell. We were being shelled from three sides...I was the third to be hit. They (the shells) were falling like rain. I am lucky to get off with this.”

Pte. William Mellor of Red Lion St. is suffering from a shrapnel wound in the back.

Pte. A Thompson, King’s Liverpool Regiment, of 8 Hartley St., Earby has been wounded in the leg, the second time since going out to France. He is now in a Manchester hospital and doing well.

Pte. T H Banks, South Wales Borderers, whose parents live at 10 Hartley St., Earby is reported wounded.

Pte. James Tuddennam, 10th Duke of Wellington’s, who lodged at 72 Water St., Earby and worked at Grove Shed has been wounded and is in hospital in Bradford.

Pte. J A Bailey, 9th Battalion Duke of Wellington’s Regiment, of 81 Colne Rd., Earby is in the Southern Hospital Bristol recovering from wounds. In a letter home he wrote “Since I sent my last letter we have gone through it and right. Where we were it was difficult to get food and water, and we suffered severely, having no bread all the time we were in the line (8 days) and being fed off bully and biscuit....We were fighting for a village and a part of a wood; and never shall I forget it, for we had to charge for a distance of 700 yards, under the enemy’s shell fire. By the time we got to the Germans there were only a handful of us left. They managed to hit me when within a few yards of them. I got one in the heel and another in the left leg – shrapnel wounds, and though I shall not be able to walk just yet I felt thankful when I looked around me.”

The parents of Pte. Douglas Smith, 10th West Riding Regiment, of 71 Water St., Earby re-

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ceived a telegram saying their son was dangerously ill at a casualty clearing station in France.

Corporal Wm. Carey, RFA, of 35 John St., Earby is in Colchester hospital with shrapnel wounds in his head and left arm. Writing home he said "My battery left the Somme on 12th July. We saw some terrible fighting there at Ovillers and La Boisselle. It was wholesale slaughter, worse than anything I had ever seen before...We were in action again on the 16th firing at German barbed wire and trenches at a range of 1,100 yards...It was not long before they spotted us. Their 4.5 guns were turned on us and in a few minutes we lost 4 sergeants, one killed and three wounded and about 10 gunners. I went up to take my sergeant's place at 2 o'clock and at 4 I and another gunner were wounded...I think I am lucky for I saw some awful sights in the hospital at St. Omer."

Pte. J Riddiough and G Hogarth of Salterforth are both in hospital suffering from wounds received during the great advance. Both formerly of Park View Terrace and weavers, the former has been brought to Keighley and the latter is in hospital in France.

Rifleman John Madill, Kings Royal Rifles, of Colne Rd., Earby is in Buckden hospital Hants. recovering from an injury caused by the explosion of a shell.

Pte. Thomas James Treverton who formerly resided at Waterloo Rd. Kelbrook is reported to have died of wounds in Etretat hospital in France.

Pte. Thos. Fielden, Duke of Wellington's, has just returned after spending ten days sick leave at his home in Waterloo Rd. Kelbrook. He received his injuries owing to the collapse of a trench; several others who were buried at the time being dead when recovered.

On 28th July Mrs Moor of 11 Brook Street, Earby was officially notified of the death of her husband Pte. William Moor, 9th Duke of Wellington's, in France on 7th July. He was a stretcher-bearer in the Regiment. He was 39 years of age and worked at Messrs. Duckworth's, Dotcliffe Mill. He was a former member of Earby Ambulance Division and had been a member of Earby Fire Brigade for many years. A memorial service was held at Thornton Parish Church.

The Somme Offensive, the bloodiest battle in our history, was to continue for 141 days from 1st July to 18th November of 1916, with casualties on all sides of over a million men.

The training of men for Kitchener's army is vividly described in the following excerpt from The Nuts Periodical.

THE NUTS ILLUSTRATED PERIODICAL - PART 2

Stephanie Carter - with thanks to David Tattersall for the donation of copies of the Nuts Periodical, now lodged in the EDLHS Archives

By the time of the publication of the Christmas edition of the Nuts Illustrated Periodical in December 1914, war had broken out and several of the Wesley Guild "Bhoys" including Tom Greenwood, had joined the Forces. Editor Frankus (Frank Waddington) laments the "regrettable truth that Europe is ablaze with war and at this time when peace and goodwill should reign on earth, men are shedding blood and women tears..." Tom's article has been transcribed - see next page.



Life in the New Army

Dear Friends

As you will no doubt have read in the papers of our great send-off at Keighley, I will begin my narrative at Halifax. You can imagine my feelings when we marched into the scene of our previous adventure – Halifax Barracks, and you can be sure that I had a good look round at my sleeping quarters, where Frank and myself had before passed such a happy night. It was Wednesday Sept. 23rd when we left Halifax; we were roused at 3.30a.m. , and had breakfast at 4. Then we marched down to the station and entrained on our nine hour's journey at 5.40a.m. Before we had been in the train ten minutes we were sound asleep, that is, all except those who were either eating or singing

At last we arrived at Farnham, and you may guess I was much surprised to see Harry Hartley on the platform. I got him in our section and he has been one of my bed mates ever since. After being sized up we started off on a march to our camp, and the first sight of it was announced by a loud cheering, shouting and a great noise generally. A sharp look round the camp and we betook ourselves to the tent to spend our first night under canvas, (and I may say here that I have found sleeping on the ground has one great advantage – you cannot fall out of bed!). The next morning “reveille” went at six o'clock and we breakfasted at seven; but for two or three days we had a very easy time of it, our real work not beginning till Monday. As before stated, reveille went at six; breakfast at seven; parade for drill at eight until half past eleven.

I will now try and describe our food. Breakfast usually consists of one of the following: German sausage (I don't know whether it is made of “dog” or not), two boiled eggs (date when laid unknown), and once we had a “Yorkshire duck”; with a square inch of butter you know, the “overweight” sort, and as much bread and what should be tea as we like. For dinner we get potatoes served up as hard as stones, a piece of beef (we sometimes have a debate whether it is horseflesh or a bit of old cow), with a little cabbage or beans and as much dry bread and water as we can eat or drink. For tea we have jam, cheese and tomatoes, and another square inch of butter (?). At first we got three tomatoes, then the number dropped to two, now it is one; perhaps the next time it will be half! In connection with the jam, here is a little ditty we are fond of singing –

*There is a happy land
Down Frensham way
Where they get bread and jam
Three times a day
Of, you should see them spread
Jam and butter on their bread
And then they come to see who's dead
Once every day*

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On Sundays we get a little extra; besides our usual dinner they give us an apple tart and for tea we get bread and usual amount of butter minus the jam, and a little currant loaf, so you see with the above articles we live almost like fighting cocks!

Now for a little drill parade at 8 o'clock, for an hour and a half; physical drill which consists of plenty of running, jumping and chest expansion; by the time we have finished this our breakfast has been turned over many times, for you will observe that the drill follows immediately after breakfast. When this drill is finished we get ten minutes rest, then it is "squad drill" – "form two deep – eyes front" – ("lift your head off the ground- there is nothing there that belongs to you!") – "right form – take your dressing by the left! Stick your chests out!" and then the sergeant will perhaps give us a little rehearsal on his own, which is almost like a pantomime, and he assures us that "that's how we ought to do it". This went on for about three weeks; then they served out some old rifles to drill with. Then the order was "sloop up", "order up", "trail arms", "change arms" and "stand easy", "shun!" Then comes forth like the roar of a lion from the sergeant "Not a movement there! Give over picking your nose on parade! Stop laughing! I'll give you something to laugh at in a bit!"

Now we are preparing to take the trenches at the point of the bayonet, for we are doing a bit of bayonet drill and it is – "Stick it out as hard as you can", shouts the sergeant, and then he calls us round him and gives us a bit of good advice, and this is how he finishes up "Give it them hard lads, for if you don't they will give it you!" and so we practice it and practice again. As for route marching, we have had very little as yet; we have generally about an hour or two hours march every day or two, though we had one the other day of three hours, the last hour at killing rate in soaking rain, so that we arrived home like drowned rats. We were carrying our rifles, which towards the end of a march get rather heavy.

At first washing day was a very difficult problem, not to be solved by arithmetic or pen and ink – it was a cold tub and a small piece of soap, and scrub as hard as you could, and even then you could not get them white. "They" have solved this problem for us, for they now send them off to the laundry. After I had washed my socks and got them dried I found that there was a hole in the heel of one of them. Well you lads, who like me had never darned a sock, just have a try, for that is the only way to find out how I managed. I thought I had made a good job of it, but I am afraid if any of the young ladies had seen it they would have had a good laugh. We have also to shave every morning; if you don't, you get to know about it, for the captain goes along the line and looks at every man's face, and woe betide the man who has not shaved! And at first it was a shave with cold water and without a lather brush.

We sleep 12 in a tent, and I can tell you there is not much room to stir when we're all down. In fact some of us when we get down cannot stir until morning without a great struggle, for when we have got our feet to the pole they get piled on top of each other, and there are nearly always some who seem to get the last on top. So you will see that the lot of a common Tommy is a very merry one, and if you will not be offended I will give you a bit of advice if you are thinking of enlisting, and that is, take a good look round at the young ladies, for if you come down here they will be the last nice girls you'll see. Personally I have not seen one yet though of course you must not suppose I have been looking for them! I will now conclude with the hope that all the young men are turning up every Sunday, and I hope the old class will always be as good as it has been or even better if it can.

From one of the members
Tom Greenwood

AN EARBY GROCER

by Rod Moorhouse

Some years ago an embroidered memorial bookmark came into my possession. It had been found in a Bible belonging to one of my aunts. The bookmark commemorates the death of John Moorhouse in 1932. His last address is stated as 8, Earlham Street, Earby. His late wife's Christian name is recorded as Edith.

At that time my only interest in John Moorhouse was to try and find out who he was and was he my relative. In my haste to establish his identity I paid little regard to many of the additional details to be found on the census records used as the backbone for my research. I failed to understand the significance of these facts in terms of John's personal circumstances. I have since researched and written accounts of the lives of Currer Moorhouse – a card Master at Victoria Mill, Earby and of his son James who became a cotton manufacturer in Earby and later in Barnoldswick. Resulting from this process I have learnt more about Earby's history, particularly its growth from a small rural village to become a prosperous cotton manufacturing town, and consequently more about John's background.

My original research was retrospective and carried out before the release of the 1911 census. The 1901 census records were used as a starting point and I soon found a John Moorhouse living in the ecclesiastical parish of Thornton with a wife named Edith. You will appreciate what followed – by working back through the census records I soon found a two year old John Moorhouse living with Currer Moorhouse and his family in Earby in 1871 and described as a '*grandson*'. Currer was my great, great uncle so I was then sure that his grandson John was my relative.

In my experience when dealing with census information a 'grandchild' tacked onto the end of a family list may mean anything from staying overnight, fostered, adopted or in-residence as a helper etc. Whatever the circumstances the grandchild's parents are often hidden by the limitations of the recorded categories of data – e.g. there are no columns on the census forms naming parents!

Recently I decided to look more closely at the available evidence and have a re-think. I began with the assumption that I had found the right John so I looked for his birth and it matched an event registered in Skipton in the December quarter of 1868 in the sub district of Barnoldswick. Eager to find out who was John's mother I sent for his birth certificate. The certificate states that John was born in Earby in November of 1868 and his mother's name was Ann Moorhouse of Earby, Thornton. There is no mention of a father!

So, who was Ann Moorhouse? The 1861 census records my great, great uncle Currer Moorhouse and his family living at Airton near Kirby Malham. Amongst his list of eight children Ann is the oldest daughter. By 1871 the family is living in Earby and four resident children are listed as Mason, Sarah, James, Mary and of course Grandson John. So, had Ann married and left home, gone to work elsewhere or died? Having found no record of a marriage or a death I searched the 1871 census and found a brother and sister named George Moorhouse aged, 26, born in Skipton and Ann Moorhouse, aged 24, born in Airton, living in the Hunslet district of Leeds – George is described as a '*Grocer [Master]*'. By 1881 George is married to Selina nee Tyers, they have three small children [including a boy named Currer!]. He is now described as a '*Wholesale Grocer*' and has two servants living in his house. He has moved away from Hunslet and now lives in Francis Street, in the Potternewton district of Leeds – but where is his sister, Ann Moorhouse?

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According to Free BMD a lady named Ann Moorhouse married Henry Johnson in the March Quarter of 1876 - the marriage was registered at Bramley. Henry Johnson, a Grocer and his wife Ann, born in Airton are recorded on the 1881 census. Living with them is a 12 year old boy named John Moorhouse, born in Earby. In the 'RELATION to Head of Family' column he is described as 'nephew'! Was this a typically Victorian mis-description? During my original research I was misled by this term and really wondered how an uncle named Henry Johnson was connected to my family? At the time it never occurred to me that John Moorhouse might be related to Henry's wife – and in fact was her son. So in 1881 it appears that John was living with his mother and her husband in Bramley, near Leeds.

Then the story becomes unclear; on all subsequent census records I have failed to find Ann and Henry Johnson, neither can I find them on passenger lists nor any death records. In addition, the only probable record of John Moorhouse appears to be a 22 year old Grocer's assistant, born in Earby, working and lodging with a retired sea captain in Birkenhead, mentioned on the 1891 census.

With the certain knowledge that John Moorhouse had married a lady named Edith and then settled in Earby I decided to send for a copy of their marriage certificate. This provided me with further interesting information which helped to expand John's story. According to the certificate John married Edith Carlisle in August of 1895 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Earby. John is described as a bachelor aged 26, living in Barnoldswick and 'Manager of cooperative store' Edith was a daughter of Joseph and Jane Carlisle. Joseph was a farmer at Botts House Farm to the North of Earby.

By 1901 John lived with Edith and their two children at numbers 41, 43, and 45 Victoria Road, Earby and on the census record he is described as a 'Shopkeeper, Grocer'. I have looked at this road on Google Earth and as far as I can determine these premises are still standing?

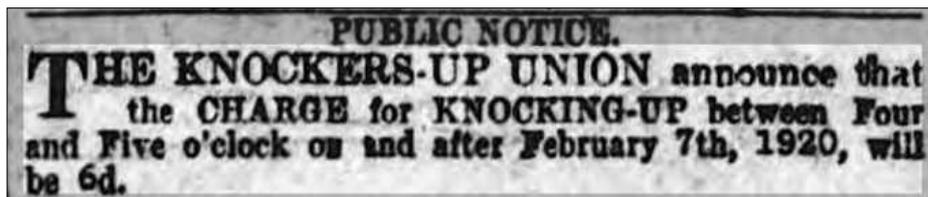
It appears that John's career in the grocery business continued to prosper. On the 1911 census he is described as a 'Grocer and Fruit Merchant'. He is living at 23, School Lane, Earby. Did he work from a shop, a warehouse or perhaps a wholesale market?

Like many of our ambitious and hardworking Victorian ancestors John appears to have taken advantage of the growth of Earby and its industries to expand his business interests.

I am now fairly certain I *have* found John's mother but his father may always remain a mystery!

I would be pleased to hear from any descendants of Joseph Carlisle who might be interested in sharing family information. Please email rodmoorhouse@ntlworld.com

PUBLIC NOTICE 1920



**CUSTOMERS OF R TAYLOR & SONS, SHOEING AND GENERAL
SMITHS, ALBION STREET, EARBY**
“All kinds of welding repairs undertaken”

PART 2 - A SNAPSHOT OF A VANISHED WAY OF LIFE – HOW MANY OF THESE
FIRMS STILL EXIST?
Stephanie Carter

The mills relied on the local blacksmith for a whole number of repairs. Messrs. A J Birley and the Albion Shed Company had all manner of iron work repairs and weldings done by R Taylor & Sons, including iron castings, picking stick repairs and jack rod repairs. In 1946 their “horse account” was separate and often shoes were fitted in the stable to the horse which brought coal to the mill from the station. C W Bailey of Spring Mill had an account between 1930 and 1953. Again there were repairs to picking shafts, crank shafts, boiler rakes, loom starters and loom belts. Reed cases, loom castings and tappets were welded, and a room pulley welded at a cost of 3/6. The horse had “two new shoes studded at the toes and rubbers” at 10/6 and had “2 removers with new rubbers” at 6/6.

Several local retailers were still delivering goods and milk with horses and carts. In 1930 Jack Bradley, greengrocer had 2 shoes put on his horse and bought 6 studs, together costing 2/6. Dairyman, Mr Maden and the Colne Co-op also had their horses re-shod.

All kinds of repairs were undertaken for local tradesmen. Some examples include:
Briggs and Duxbury had tools sharpened in 1946
Fred Cowgill (1941-48) had picks, chisels, etc. sharpened, as did William Cowgill (1948-53)
R B Clarkson, plumber, E W Smith & Sons, plumbers and George Feather, joiner, had tools sharpened.

In 1936 the Baptist Church and Cemetery had spades sharpened, scythes grinded and in 1947 had the lawn mower and turf cutter in for grinding. Harry Brown who ran a taxi service had car seat irons lengthened. The Band Club in 1946 used Taylors for overhauling the pump in the cellar. The Conservative Club was also a customer.

A J Carter, Sons & Co., timber merchants, had a wagon side bar welded at a cost of 3/6 in 1942. In 1945 bands were made and fitted to a hand cart, price 16/6 and a truck wheel was machined with one hour’s work costing 3/-. In 1948 the lifting grab was repaired and cost 1/6.

The Earby Empire Cinema also had work done by Taylors. In 1937 they provided the gate and railings. In 1950 there were repairs to the sides of seats and a seat back repair cost 1/6. Four seat frames were welded at a cost of 10/6.

Other customers included Earby Cricket Club, George Preston, Craven Fireplaces, Bell Metal Industries, the Rover Company at Grove Mill, Johnsons Fabrics and Earby Gas Company who needed welding jobs to meter brackets and tools.

There will be much more information in the Record Book at the Craven Museum – Reference SKIPM:766 Location STW 5sh3A.

ANOTHER NAME TO BE ADDED TO EARBY'S ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL

Bob Abel

On Remembrance Sunday in November an additional memorial stone will be dedicated. Richard William David (David) Westlake was killed in 1960 when his aircraft crashed into the sea.

Originally from Brighouse, David came to live in Earby with his family in the early 1950's where they lived on Colne Road, Sough. David's father, Richard, was a manager with Woolworths stores and had been transferred to the Nelson Branch. During the Second World War, Richard was senior ARP warden in Brighouse. David attended Ermysteds Grammar School in Skipton and being keen at sports he played rugby and cricket for the school and became senior swimming champion. He also played cricket for Earby 2nd eleven.

In 1955, the Navy List describes him as Midshipman (for air crew duties). He had joined the Fleet Air Arm. By May 1957 he is listed as acting sub-lieutenant and by July had been promoted to full sub-lieutenant.



The Fleet Air Arm (FAA) is the branch of the British Royal Navy responsible for the operation of naval aircraft. After WWII jet aircraft were becoming increasingly common and the Fleet Air Arm had to adapt to their use. These more powerful and faster jet aircraft posed problems for landing on aircraft carriers. They need more space to land. The US navy built larger aircraft carriers but the British invented a catapult system. To land on the flight deck, each plane needed a hook attached to the plane's tail. The pilot's goal was to snag the tail hook on an arresting wire, sturdy cables made from high-tensile steel wire, to slow the aircraft's speed and bring it to rest.

David was posted to HMS Victorious, Britain's premier aircraft carrier having had a £20m refit in 1958. The carrier was the base for 803 squadron of Scimitar F1 fighter bombers, capable of delivering a nuclear bomb.

The Scimitar had a chequered history, out of a total of 76 built, half were lost. Some

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through hydraulic failures but one incident in particular occurred in 1958 in full view of the press and was filmed by Pathe News. After what appeared to be a perfect landing the arrester wire failed and the jet plunged into the sea. The pilot, Commander Russel, was drowned.

In February 1960, David was on a routine flight from HMS Victorious in the Moray Firth and was preparing to land on the flight deck. Unfortunately the hydraulics used to deploy the tail hook failed and the aircraft bounced off the deck in an attempt to lower it. Being very low on fuel David managed to take the jet to 2000 feet where he endeavoured to bail out. However his parachute snagged on his seat and failed to deploy. His body was never found. This was obviously an utter tragedy for his family exacerbated by the fact that David got married to Jane Pollard just two weeks before the accident and his daughter was born later that year .

Reported in Barnoldswick and Earby Times 12th Feb 1960

'FINE YOUNG MAN' DIES IN FLYING ACCIDENT

Residents in Earby and particularly members of the cricket club have been saddened this week to hear of the untimely death of Lt David Westlake of the Fleet Air Arm, who formerly lived in Colne Road, Sough and played for the cricket team.

Lt Westlake was killed at the weekend in a flying accident whilst operating from HMS Victorious off the Norwegian coast. Only a fortnight previously he had been married at St Albans. It is four years since the family left Earby for Glasgow, Mr Westlake senior being the manager of a multiple store. When the family lived in Earby he worked at Nelson but was later promoted to a managership in Glasgow. His son joined the Fleet Air Arm at about the same time, after leaving Ermysteds Grammar School, Skipton. There he was in the rugby and cricket teams and was a senior swimming champion.

Although he was engaged in school matches, Lt Westlake also turned out for Earby at cricket, mainly for the second team and was a very popular and enthusiastic player.

We have been very sorry to hear of the tragedy. 'He was a very fine young man' said an Earby official this week.

Reported in the Craven Herald 12th Feb 1960

FLEET AIR ARM PILOT KILLED

News was received at Skipton on Monday that an old boy of Ermysteds Grammar School, LT David Westlake (RN), a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, had been killed in an aircraft accident during the weekend whilst operating from HMS Victorious off the coast of Norway.

Lt Westlake, who was 21 years old was married at St Albans, Hertfordshire, on January 22nd this year. He was the son of Mr and Mrs F Westlake of Glasgow and formerly of Primrose Bank., Sough, Earby.

A fine athlete. Lt Westlake played in the Ermysteds' rugby and cricket teams and became senior swimming champion.

He had played for Skipton RFC and Earby Cricket Club.

He joined the navy about four years ago and was the youngest man to fly in the Farnborough Air Display in 1958.

It is understood that Lt Westlake was to have taken part in further aeronautical displays. Colleges and superior officers regarded him as a very capable pilot.

David's brother, Michael, will be laying a wreath in his memory.

EARBY MUSIC CLUB

By Pat Wilkinson

After a period of 34 years in existence, the Earby Music Club, or Music Society as it was sometimes known, finally came to an end this year. Because of an ageing membership which has dwindled over the years due to deaths, moves and illnesses, it was agreed between the remaining eight members that the club be discontinued. All the members felt sad about the decision, but despite having tried to advertise and encourage more interest, the numbers continued to fall.

The first meeting to try and form a Music Club was held in Earby Surgery on December 9th 1981 when a group of like-minded people formed a committee and officers and arranged to meet on January 14th 1982. At that meeting 12 members agreed to hold musical evenings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in the Surgery. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were Mr and Mrs Alf Sculthorpe, the Secretary Mr Norman Wright with Mrs Florence Wright as Assistant Secretary. Mrs D Strickland was Treasurer, Mrs Stott was responsible for refreshments and Committee members were Mrs Buchan, Mrs Crabtree, Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Belle Hopkinson and Mr Cyril Bowell with Mrs Pam Longbottom as the Doctor's Representative.

The first of eight musical evenings commenced on January 28th when the Chairman Mr Alf Sculthorpe did the first presentation. This consisted of 45 minutes music with a refreshment break of tea and biscuits followed by a further 45 minutes of music. This was in the form of a gramophone recital of long playing records with people lending various items of equipment. The charge for renting the room was 75p per hour and the meetings were held from 7.30 to 9.30 with a charge of 10 pence for refreshments. To try and raise money for equipment, a coffee evening was held in the Baptist Church followed later by a Bring and Buy Sale and at the A.G.M. of May 1983 it was reported that 14 successful musical evenings had been enjoyed, with an average attendance of 34.

The Committee purchased a Marantz turntable and two Linton speakers in August 1983 and from then on the club enjoyed regular musical evenings in the Surgery. In 1985 Mr Sculthorpe resigned as Chairman due to ill health and was succeeded by Mrs Florence Wright. Christmas parties were enjoyed each year by the members. In 1993 the meetings were held in the lower room of the Surgery at the request of the Doctors and because of a reduced membership, this was quite satisfactory. In May 2000 Mr Norman Wright announced his resignation and this post was taken over by Mrs Pat Wilkinson. A gift of appreciation was presented to Mr Wright for his dedication to the club as a member and Secretary since its inception He continued as a member until his death in 2001.

During that year, due to an alarm system being installed in the Surgery, the club changed its venue to the Valley Gardens Flats where the lounge was available free of charge, as long as some residents were members.

In February 2006 Mrs Wright stood down as Chairman after 21 years and was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the new Chairman Mr Roy Redfearn. As the years went by the membership seemed to decrease despite advertising and in 2009 the club lost the venue in the flats.

However there was an overwhelming response to carry on, so it was arranged with

Earby Town Council that the club should use the Parish Rooms for a rent of £5 each meeting. Two new pieces of equipment were acquired in the form of a C.D. player and amplifier.

By 2010 the membership was down to around twelve and as most members were elderly it was decided that afternoon meetings were preferable to evenings. These happily continued for a further six years until the A.G.M. of 2016 when the remaining eight members regretfully decided to close Earby Music Club.

EARBY 50 YEARS AGO- 1966

From the Craven Herald

August

Earby Council Workman Retires After 43 Years – his Memories of his Work in Earby

Mr R T (Bob) Turnbull, of Mill Brow Earby, is a man who not only knows what goes on in the district, but what is happening beneath it.

Since 1923, cheerful Mr Turnbull has worked for Earby Urban Council, and since 1936 has been general foreman. He retired 11th August and at a party given by the staff of Earby Urban Council, in the White Lion Hotel, he was presented with a pair of binoculars by the Surveyor (Mr G Walker). He was also presented with a Parker pen and pencil set by the men of the department. They had also signed a parchment scroll wishing him well in retirement.

The job of general foreman is no easy one. While the rest of us sleep easily as howling blizzards rage in the depths of winter, Mr Turnbull and his men have to be out, trying to keep the roads open. When flooding occurs and the rest of us watch the rain bouncing from the safety of our living room windows, they have to be out trying to stem the tide.

“Our fire never went out from September to March in order that his clothes could be dried out if and when he was called out”, Mrs Turnbull said, and she recalled that often he had gone through several sets of clothing when the weather was particularly bad. He recalls that the worst flooding in his memory was that of July 18th two years ago . “There was just nothing anyone could do to prevent that”, Mr Turnbull said.

One of the worst winters was in 1947. “As I went down to work, I was walking along the top of the drift, and I was touching the top of a lamp-post at one stage” he said. “There was a funeral up Stoneybank Road, where the snow was level with the wall on both sides, and another at the top of Red Lion Street. We had to clear them both in order that they could get out, and to the cemetery”. That year, he said his department was still shifting snow from a corner of Bleara Road on 29th May.

Bob, as he is known to practically everyone, began working for the Council in 1923, first as a general labourer, and then on the coupling of electricity supplies, when it was brought to the town. He said that Mr J Berry switched on the electricity supply in Earby on 29th September 1929. By the time the undertaking was nationalised, there were 1,554 meters, over 200 street lights, three sub-stations and 13 feeder pillars, and he had something to do with the installation of almost every one of them.

Often, when electricity supplies were being built up regularly, he would be called out on Saturday afternoon, or even Sunday, to put in meters.

His first big jobs were the roads leading to Springfield School and Longroyd Road.

Earby Chronicles

He worked on the building of Spring Mill and on the widening of the New Road Bridge in 1929 and Seal Bridge in Victoria Road, and recalls a young engineer being killed when the gas works were being built.

Now the telephone or a knock on the door will no longer call Mr Turnbull from his bed at all hours. But he confesses he has greatly enjoyed his work and doubtless as the wind howls, rain pours or snow blows, and he snuggles comfortably in his bed, or at his fire-side, he will feel a personal sympathy with those who have been out with him in all sorts of conditions.

How will he spend his new leisure?" "We'll find a way, won't we lass?" he said to his wife. And it's a safe bet that it will be outdoors, in the open air he loves so much. Earby has much to thank Bob for over many years.

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Earby Redmans 1932

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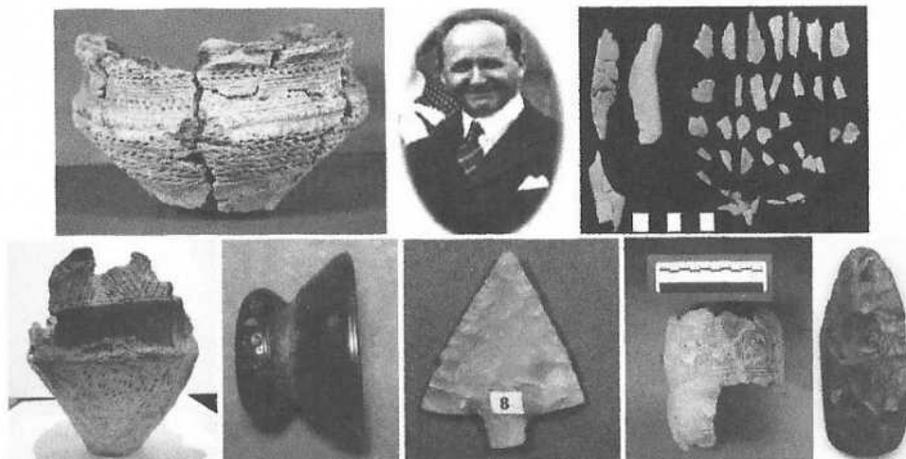
Branches Throughout the District.

The following is reproduced with the kind permission of Dr Keith Boughey

Life and Death in Prehistoric Craven

Welbury Wilkinson Holgate and the Excavation of the Hare Hill Ring Cairn

Keith Boughey



Between 1932 and 1950, a Bronze Age ring cairn on Hare Hill, Thornton Moor, near Thornton-in-Craven, North Yorkshire (NGR: SD 92957 47686), was excavated by an amateur archaeologist from Earby, Welbury Wilkinson Holgate (1901-1969), assisted by his three sisters, Ellen (1880-1948), Martha (1882-1970) and Grace (1886-1967). The Holgates ran a highly successful confectionery business from a shop in Water Street. The rooms above the shop housed Welbury's private archaeological and geological collection, which became well known to both local people and visitors. Holgate's window displays were well known in the local area, not only for prize-winning sugar craft and seasonal displays but also for featuring small exhibitions from his collection. The former tearoom is now a fish and chip shop.

The site has rising ground to the south, but commands extensive views of the broad valley of Earby and Thornton Becks below to the west and the hills of Airedale to the north. Conspicuous both on the ground and from aerial photography, it survives today as a circular flat-topped mound of stone and earth up to 0.7m in height and 28m in diameter, surrounded by a bank, with faint indications of a ditch between the bank and the mound.

Their excavation exposed the full structure of the cairn. For its time, and given their circumstances, the excavation was an altogether astonishing piece of work. Flint finds and radiocarbon dating of charcoal and cremated bone have revealed a long and complex history for the site, beginning in the Mesolithic, c. 6000 BC. A shallow pit beneath the cairn containing ash, charcoal, worked flint and a ground Neolithic axehead revealed a date of 3957-3797 cal BC. The cairn contained the cremated remains of between 15-21 individuals, mostly children and adolescents, including a rare triple burial of two juveniles and a neonate, associated with Beakers, Food Vessels and Collared Urns, all of which returned radiocarbon dates spanning the Beaker-Early Bronze Age period from 2026-1895 cal BC to 1746-1620 cal BC. Finds also included a flint arrowhead, a fine jet ear stud, a jet 'napkin' ring for fastening a cloak and two bone points or needles.

Sadly, nothing was ever published. But what the author has now produced for Hare Hill is a comprehensive account backed up by a suite of secure radiocarbon dates. We also have clear evidence of trade in key materials such as flint and jet. The ring cairn occupies a key location straddling the Aire-Ribble gap, to the east providing access into and across the Pennines and beyond, and to the north and west to Cumbria and the Irish Sea coastline. The people who built and used the cairn on Hare Hill undoubtedly belong to this wider economic and cultural narrative. The final publication of the excavation will ensure that the hitherto unheralded work of the Holgates will at last make its long overdue contribution to our understanding of this story.

Fully illustrated in colour and black-and-white. £17.50 + £2.50 UK p&p (less £2.50 without Appendices CD, All inquires/orders to:

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EARBY'S FIRST RAILWAY STATION

Research by Stephanie Carter

Further to Bob Abel's article in the Spring 2016 Chronicles on the subject of a "New Railway Station for Earby", which was opened in 1885, in the course of my research I have come across a series of letters written in June and July 1875 to the Craven Pioneer newspaper which describe the original Earby station and whose writers put pressure on the railway company for some improvement to be made. As stated in Bob's article the Skipton to Colne line opened in 1848 and the new station was not opened until ten years after the letters were written.

The first correspondent wrote:

"Understanding that your paper is widely circulated in the neighbourhood, I beg to call public attention to Earby station. A short time ago, having occasion to wait there, I found only one waiting room 9ft x 11 for both sexes and both classes of passengers. Looking round for the w.c., I ultimately found it through the only available waiting room, impossible for any person to make use of it, with passengers (and most frequently females) in the waiting room, unless lost to all sense of decency. Surely the Midland Railway Company ought to make different provision to this; it is not becoming. I inquired if there was no probability of some alteration; no one seemed to think there was any likelihood of any alteration, as it had always been so. The Company had talked of building a new station, but no one seemed to believe it would ever be done, unless, as one person said, "Somebody should be killed", which I understand was not at all unlikely. The whole appearance and arrangement of the station seemed bad, but I was assured that if I only visited the waiting room on a winter's evening. Altogether the station seemed a dirty, badly arranged place. I wonder no one in the neighbourhood has taken it up; it is not fit for any respectable person to go to. Since being there I understand Mr H Bracewell had to write to the Board of Trade before they would keep the approach to the station clear. Trusting this may call forth further attention to the place. – Yours truly John Williams"

The second letter to the Editor came from "An Earby Resident:

"I quite approve the tone of the letter on the subject in last week's Pioneer, and feel keenly the necessity the public is under to ventilate the matter in the local press. Scores of those people having business at Earby station have frequently, especially on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays to stand out in the rain, the little waiting room and the Station-Master's office being crowded almost to suffocation. The people of Earby, I hear, feel very indignant at the treatment they receive from the Midland Railway Company in having such inferior accommodation, especially since the Company have built such handsome and convenient stations at Foulridge, Thornton and Elslack. The business at Earby station is four times as large as that done at any of these, the monthly takings at Earby station being nearly £400. It should be stated that there have been many promises of alteration, but hitherto nothing has been done. Trusting that the evils complained of will shortly be remedied. Yours truly, One Who Suffers from the Present State of Things"

Another correspondent wrote:

"Much satisfaction was expressed in this neighbourhood last week by the readers of the Pioneer on seeing the letter of your Burnley correspondent exposing the wretched condition of Earby station. A great deal more, however, might be written on the subject. Your corre-

spondent hints that any person visiting the station on a winter's evening would experience a very disagreeable condition of things, but frequently on a Monday, Saturday or Sunday, if it happens to be wet, there are scores of people that have to stand out in the rain whilst waiting for the train, there being absolutely no accommodation for them; and people frequently have to wait a considerable time before they can get a legal way out of the place. The people of Earby feel that they have just cause of indignant complaint against the Railway Company at their treatment of them in this matter, seeing they have provided such good accommodation at Foulridge, Thornton and Elslack; and I am informed that the traffic at Earby station is at least six times larger than those places. Your correspondent intimates that nothing will be done till someone is killed, I am very sorry to say that one poor fellow has been killed already; so they need not wait for that sad event to prompt them to action. Yours etc."

In July 1875 the representative of the Craven Pioneer reported:
"Probably as a result of the correspondence which has appeared in the Pioneer during the last few weeks but certainly from some cause or other a new station is to be erected in Earby. Already the plans have been drawn and some extensive alterations are proposed to be effected; but with a view of improving the existing defects, an addition has been made to the staff of porters of a more respectable class. The wretched looking hut is doomed to destruction, and it is believed that the site of the station will be either further up or further down the line; but whether one nearer to Earby or at the junction of the Barnoldswick branch with the main line will be selected, is yet a matter for conjecture. However the extension and improvements are under the serious consideration of the directors."

The following week another correspondent wrote to the Editor:
"Your correspondent who has been kind enough to inform you of plans and specifications having been drawn for a new station at Earby might also have informed you that plans and specifications were drawn years ago and contractors' names were also given. But as it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, without very severe pressure from the public and assistance from the press. As to being under the "serious consideration of the Directors", that is the Company's stock in trade phrase and means nothing. The Company have been warned from the dangerous way the station is worked, should any accident occur an attempt will be made to prove them criminally liable. If any change has taken place in the porters, it is high time, some of them were the lowest of the low. Were the smaller stations on the Midland line worked more for the convenience of the public, and less monopolised by the station masters for the sale of coal, it would be a great advantage."

Contracts were sought as regards the building of a new passenger station and goods warehouse. This took a further ten years to accomplish.

STOP PRESS! NEW PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

"Skeletons in the Cupboard—True Crime Stories of Earby and District" by Stephanie Carter, Editor of the Chronicles, is now available. A successful launch of the book and exhibition on crime and the police was held in the Community Centre on 3rd September.

Copies of the book may be purchased at EDLHS meetings or at the Autumn Fair, at a cost of £10. If you would like a copy sent by post please contact our Treasurer Wendy Faulkner at the following address: Lower Burnt Hill Farm, Skipton Old Road, Colne BB8 7ER

The cost including postage and packaging will be £12.50

APPEAL FROM COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of our Chairman and two valued Committee members, we are urgently seeking more members to actively assist in any way to make it possible for the Society to continue. We are hoping to be able to continue with our programme of talks and lectures but, on an experimental basis, will cease serving refreshments after the meetings. The quarterly Chronicles will also continue but more ideas and items of historical interest to include would be most welcome by the Editor. The archive room will still be open on Friday mornings for research purposes.

If you would like to be a full member of the Committee or could help in any of the following ways would you please contact the Secretary or any Committee member:

Setting up and clearing away the meetings room
Setting up exhibitions
Producing leaflets
Computer skills, especially help with website
Distributing Chronicles and notices
Working in the archive room

We thank you in anticipation.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 18th October—Family History in the 21st Century by Christine Bradley

Tuesday 15th November Unknown Pendle—by Duncan Armstrong

Tuesday 20th December—Christmas meeting

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Local History
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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).

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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