

# 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:**

Secretary:  
Margaret Brown  
01282 843932

Editor of Chronicles:  
Stephanie Carter  
01756 794099

Treasurer/ Archivist :  
Wendy Faulkner  
01282 863160

Committee:  
Trevor Tattersall  
Margaret Greenwood  
Steve Marshall  
Bob Abel

Website:  
[www.earbyhistory.co.uk](http://www.earbyhistory.co.uk)

Email:  
[info@earbyhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@earbyhistory.co.uk)

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## "BE PREPARED" with Ken Ranson



**Ken Ranson and Geoff Lumb with the contents of the "biscuit tin"**

"DYB DYB DYB", "DOB DOB DOB". At eight-years-old, many years ago now, I can still remember my first attendance at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earby wolf cub pack at New Road school. Veronica Nash, the cub leader at the time, had knocked on my door on Kenilworth Drive and told my mum there was now a place for me in the cub pack.

Memory is a bit vague now but I have recollections of playing British Bulldogs, walks to the Waterfalls to play football. There was a Totem pole with different coloured tags on it. I was chosen to carry the flag in the Mayday procession which I did with great pride.

I had been in the cubs for a few months now and all the while looked on with envy at most of all the other lads resplendent in their smart green jumpers and bright yellow neckerchiefs. Then one day mum

### Recent features

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said to me "your granny is coming next week to stay with us". This was my mum's mum, my "black granny" as I knew her, for she always wore dark clothes - my dad's mum was my "grey granny".

Granny Castle duly arrived all the way from Ashton-under-Lyne. She did a lot of sewing and because of her bad eyesight my job was to thread her needles for her ( 3d a time, my first paid job). Then one day she came in after going shopping with my mum

and presented me with a brown paper parcel. With excitement I ripped open the parcel and there in a dazzling show of green and yellow was my brand new cub uniform.

During the few years I was in the cubs, at intervals, an elderly gentleman in full scout uniform and large army hat would come and stand silently at the side of the room and watch us. Didn't know who he was but there was an aroma about him, a mixture of leather and pipe tobacco, quite a pleasant smell. It wasn't till many years later that I found out he was Herbert Lumb, the group scout leader of the troop and the stalwart of scouting in Earby for many years. He was a cobbler by trade and had a shop on Colne Road.

"Would you come and help us out with the cub scout pack?" Now aged twenty-one, and recently married, my new brother-in-law put me on the spot, how could I refuse? So I started what was to be a dozen happy years running a cub scout pack, firstly in Barnoldswick, and then starting up a new pack at Riley Street in Earby.



Forty years have now elapsed; as a keen local historian and a member of Earby & District Local History Society I decided to try and put together a history of scouting in Earby.

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I had my own memories and a few photos and nothing more. I had started as a cub scout leader at St Andrews Methodists at Barnoldswick until I formed the pack at Earby so I spoke to Dennis Cairns, a local historian and as luck would have it the archivist at St Andrews. All the old log books etc relating to scouting in the district had been preserved which provided me with lots of information.

During my hours of browsing through the log books a name kept cropping up, Geoff Lumb. A search of the internet told me that Geoff was the son of the Herbert Lumb who I had known sixty years ago. I made a further search of the internet and a phone call to the library in the village where I had found Geoff living in Nottinghamshire. The librarian obviously would not give me any information so I left my name and phone number. Ten minutes later the phone rang and I was talking to Geoff.

Many telephone calls and emails, much information and some photographs until one day an email arrived "Coming to Earby on Saturday".

So Geoff and I finally met up and as an added bonus he gave me the proverbial "biscuit tin" full of his badges and medals which will be retained in the Society's archives.

### MEMORABILIA FROM THE ARCHIVES

The following three photographs come from a collection of memorabilia of Jack Eastwood's time as Chairman of EUDC in 1957. Earby and Barnoldswick scouts had amalgamated to form the West Craven District Scouts and the photographs show scouts and their leaders at District meetings.



In the above photograph the three leaders from left to right are Trevor Reeve of Barnoldswick Scouts, Ben Lemon, District Scout leader and Herbert Lumb, District Cub leader. Herbert was a saddler/cobbler whose shop was in Colne Road Earby. He was the father of Geoff, referred to in the previous article by Ken Ranson.

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In the photograph above the older lads at the back are Rover Scouts who helped out at camps. The one with the flag pole of the Union Jack sticking through his head is Ben Lemon. To the right of him is Ted Clark of Beech Avenue and then Herbert Lumb.



### **EARBY AND DISTRICT 50 YEARS AGO – 1966**

From the Craven Herald

September

At the Young Farmers' Show, held at Springfield School, Leslie Dinsdale of Bell's Farm, Thornton-in-Craven was the winner of many prizes, including the A Boothman trophy for champion in the cattle class, and the J W Charnley trophy for best animal exhibited by a

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senior member. The Silcock Tankard was his in the cattle class championship, as was the Spillers Shield for the best matched pairs in the cattle classes. David Guy, K Marsden, Edward Bowker and J R Mawson were also among the winners. The show was probably the most successful to date.

### October

Pauline Smith was the Harvest Queen at Riley Street.

The induction of the new Baptist minister Rev Peter Wightman who had a great interest in young people took place. He was a young pastor who had just completed his studies at the Northern Baptist College.

It was announced that Earby Foundry was to close. Forecast Foundries at Sough Mill, housed in the Bristol Tractors premises would lose 30 jobs.

### November

Earby Memorial Bowling Club held their annual dinner at the Black Bull, Rimington. Mr T Fleetwood was the Club's President.

Earby Cricket Club's dinner was held at the Coronation, Horton in Craven.

November 5<sup>th</sup> was celebrated with a torchlight procession headed by Earby Prize Brass Band. There was a competition for the best lantern and best guy. The band played on the Rec. and Jacqueline Waddington set light to the fire. Hot dogs and hot potatoes were served and the firework display was enjoyed by all.

Jack Cross was appointed headmaster of Earby County Junior School. He was returning to the school where he began his own education, although it was at New Road then.

### December

Employees of Vokes held their dinner at the Devonshire, Skipton.

The proposed closure of Earby Gas Showroom was announced.

Dr Ernest Bateman Jagoe announced his retirement, after a lengthy spell in hospital. He had been in practice in Earby for 40 years and had been exceptionally popular. He had been a real family doctor following the progress of his patients and their families in their everyday life. He was born in Kinsale, Ireland, after which place he named his house. He was a keen horseman in Ireland and a keen tennis player after coming to England. Throughout his life Dr Jagoe retained the slow pace of life of his native Ireland. He never appeared to be in a great hurry and took long and careful thought over a diagnosis. When driving his car he seldom exceeded 30mph and as a doctor he would be missed by many.

Sometime shortly after the Sunday Nativity Service, Thornton Church was robbed. Stolen were the brass lectern which weighed two to three hundredweight, the altar cross and two altar vases. The Rector, Rev J Loxham said the lectern had been a gift from the Birley and Brooks families and had been given to the church 60 years ago. There was great attachment to the three items in the village. Police are making extensive enquiries.

## THE NUTS ILLUSTRATED PERIODICAL- PART 3

Stephanie Carter

The boys from the Earby Wesley Guild had started their project of the production of a quarterly periodical at an unfortunate time – just prior to the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. It is not clear how many editions were in fact produced, as members of the Guild enlisted in the Forces and some, including key members of the production team, lost their lives.

These included Arthur Wilson, a faithful member of Earby Wesleyan Church. With his death in France in May 1915 the Wesley Guild lost one of its best workers. Arthur had

been magazine and roll secretary, a member of the choir, and a Sunday School teacher.

Tom Greenwood, who wrote, as military correspondent, of his life in Kitchener's Army for the Nuts Periodical, was killed in action in June 1917. He also had been one of the leading spirits in the Wesley Guild.

Frank Waddington (Frankus) had joined the Royal Flying Corps and had been in training since February 1917. Not being in robust health for some time, he developed consumption and died in Scotland in June 1917. Like Arthur Wilson and Tom Greenwood he had been a man of great promise, being very talented with both pen and brush. He was secretary of the Earby Wesley Guild and Editor of the Nuts Illustrated Periodical.

The hearts of those left behind were stirred with memories of their vanished youth, and to quote the concluding lines of Frankus' Christmas editorial:

"Ring out the thousand wars of old;  
Ring in the thousand years of peace."



Arthur Wilson, Tom Greenwood and Frank Waddington

## **WILLIAM ANDERSON FEATHER BSc FiWE (1909-1995)**

Bob Abel

The Earby Urban District Council minutes for November 1941 record the following entry –

"The Chairman referred to the recent award of the George Medal to William Feather ... first decoration earned by a resident of this Urban District during the present war."

Resolved – best wishes and heartiest congratulations be extended to Lt Feather.

The George Medal was instituted in 1940 by King George VI after the London Blitz to recognise the bravery of mainly civilians. The medal is granted in recognition of "acts of great bravery". It is primarily a civilian award, but it may be awarded to military personnel for gallant conduct that is not in the face of the enemy.

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William Anderson Feather was one of three sons of George Feather, joiner and builder, who had the premises on Linden Road now run by Martin Foster. William's brothers Thomas and James also served in WWII. Born in Earby in 1909, William was educated at Ermysteds Grammar School and Leeds University where he studied for an engineering degree. After graduating he was employed as an engineer on water supply and sewerage works projects until just after the outbreak of WWII. In 1940 he was called up to serve with the Royal Engineers and was posted to bomb disposal duties.



**L-R: Captain William A Feather, Flt. Lt Thomas A Feather, Staff Sergeant James A Feather. picture taken in 1945.**

By the spring of 1940 it was realised that specially trained teams of engineers would be needed to deal with unexploded bombs (UXBs) and during the London Blitz 1940/41 these teams of engineers would be called to many UXBs. The task of the bomb disposal teams was complicated by the fact that the Germans started devising bombs with delayed fuses and anti-handling devices specifically to instil fear and danger in to civilians. The engineers who had to deal with them had to devise methods of safely defusing them and bomb disposal required nerves of steel and a high degree of bravery. It wasn't just civilian areas affected by UXBs but industrial and military targets had to be covered.

William Feather's citation in the London Gazette indicates the types of incidents he had to attend. Posted in the London Gazette on the 28th October 1941: (1)

Awarded for incidents at :

Royal Naval Mine Depot Wrabness Essex, 21/23 August 1940; Explosives and Chemical Products Works Harwich Essex, 9/15 September 1940; West Raynham Airfield Norfolk, 28 October 1940; Massingham Airfield Norfolk, 29 October 1940; Bury Saint Edmunds Suffolk 17 July 1941. On the 2nd October 1940 a bomb landed in the Royal Ordnance Factory, this was given a A1 category. Work started immediately, the soil was of blue clay composition,

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difficult to dig and timber, this problem continued throughout the war. This bomb took fifty one days to reach and immunise after digging three shafts, it was at thirty four feet depth and off to one side at a distance of 16 feet.

Lt. Butch Feather was a BD Officer from the beginning, with 4 BD Company, based at Bury St Edmunds; although at the time he was at Hornchurch working under very heavy raid conditions. 21st August 1940, Butch Feather went to eleven UXB's reported to be 50kg's just outside the Royal Navy Mine Depot. Loaded sea mines were stored here. Even though these mines were within close proximity to the working area, Feather supervised his digging teams for two days, on five bombs presenting the greatest risk to the mines. One was found to be fused with a long delay; this fuse was removed before it detonated. On the night of the 9/10 September, Feather went to ten category A bombs. These were in the works of the Explosives and Chemical Products Company, Harwich. On investigation three 500kg bombs and seven 50kg bombs were located. Within fifty yards of most of these bombs was a gunpowder storage area, containing one ton of gunpowder. With his men he worked for days whilst under constant air attack, and it was only due to his tenacity and leadership, that the task was completed. All bombs immunised and work in the factory started in the minimum time possible. On October the 28th Feather was called to the RAF base at West Raynham, near Kings Lynn, where thirty five unexploded 50kg bombs were located. They had only just penetrated the ground. Feather's team worked quickly to uncover them and he removed the no. 17 fuses that they were armed with. He at the time had no knowledge of no. 17 fuses being fitted into the 50kg bomb. Due to their speed the airfield was back in operation on the same day. The next day saw him at Massingham, dealing with two 250kg and one 50kg bomb. These were made safe by the fuses being removed within three hours of landing. This was a great risk as the 250 kg bombs often were fitted with a booby trapped 17 fuse.

William and his team were obviously kept busy. In addition to operational duties in the UK, William also held staff appointments at the War Office and at GCHQ Home Forces. He also served as an instructor at the School of Military Engineering.

In 1942 he was awarded the George Medal for defusing a 500kg bomb fitted with a new highly sophisticated fuse which, as it was in proximity to vital water mains, could not be detonated in situ.

At the end of the war, William joined the firm of consultant engineers, Lemon and Blizzard of London, Southampton and Plymouth who specialised in public-health engineering works of water supply, sewerage and sewerage treatment, eventually becoming their senior partner. In 1961 he joined the Institution of Public Health Engineers, becoming a fellow in 1965, and a member of the Council in 1967. He was president of the Institution during 1974-5. He was also a Fellow of the Institution of Water Engineers and a Member of the Association of Consulting Engineers.

William died on 9th February 1995 aged 85, ten years after his wife Melita. His obituary (2) described him as being known to his colleagues, as a quiet, unassuming and modest man. However, his warm, friendly appearance had an ice-cold nerve and an iron determination which came fully into play when he risked his life to crack the secret of the new German fuse – so that his colleagues who might be called upon to carry out a similar task could do it knowing the precise techniques they would have to use. When asked what motivated him to sit on half a ton of high explosive down about seven metres in a temporary excavation to remove the new mark of German fuse, he replied with his half shy

smile, "It became a bit of a thing to solve the problem set by the chap who designed the fuse."

William Feather can truly be said to be one of Earby's war time heroes.

References

Royal Engineers Association – Bomb disposal branch [http://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/george\\_cross.html](http://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/george_cross.html) London Gazette: 28 October 1941

Obituary -Journal of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Volume 9 June 1995 - <https://www.deepdyve.com/lp/wiley/william-anderson-feather-bsc-fice-BIZ0Zt78Gg>

Photo Courtesy of Susan Keegan – niece of William Feather

**ARTICLE 5 OF THE PUB CRAWL  
THE EARBY BAND CLUB STORY**

Margaret Brown

The Earby Brass Band was formed in the mid-1800s by a few men keen on brass instruments who used to meet at Lower Verjuice Farm. The band entered its first competition at Salterforth in May 9<sup>th</sup> 1868 and won 1<sup>st</sup> prize of 4 guineas and a cornet valued at 9 guineas. The occupier of Lower Verjuice in 1851 as "son in law" and then as farmers in 1861 & 1871 census was a Thomas Wilkinson, so it is likely that he was the one associated with the formation of the band. (But that's another story!)

By the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the band was doing well and needed a place to practice and to hold concerts. A fund-raising drive was started and by 1914 work could begin. The builder was Willie Cowgill, who also built most of the terraced houses in Earby; his workshops were on Aspen, Lane now owned by Steven Turner.



**Pre 1st World War outside Band Club. Player on left is Edwin Firth, killed in action. He was one of the countries leading musicians**

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To help pay for the work the Band borrowed £1,000 from Tetley's brewery. It took many years to pay off the debt. At the start of WWII they still owed £1,000, but thanks to the drinking habits of the Home Guard, who took over the Jubilee hall, the 600 Royal engineers who were stationed in the Earby area and the Rover Company who brought in workers to the area to staff the two large "shadow" factories building equipment for the war, this debt was cleared within 12 months of the start of the war. Finally the club could bank some profits. It was at this time that the club ran out of beer, every Saturday night. There was some serious drinking taking place although the 40's to the 60's, as Peter Thompson who was a barman then steward of the club in the 1960's to 1980's recalls, telling us of the huge deliveries of alcohol :

*"In the 1950's/60's the club had a high turnover of assorted beverages, deliveries were from Tetley's on Wednesday mornings, a typical drop would be: 11 hogsheads (54 gallons each) of Tetley Mild, 8 barrels (36 gallons each) of Tetley Bitter, 6 barrels of Younger's Mild, 11 kegs (11 gallons each) of Younger's Tartan Bitter, 10 kegs of Carling Black Label and 8 kegs of Draught Guinness. This equates to 11,336 pints of beer per week. Also on the drop would be about 50 crates of assorted bottles, Ales, Stouts and Mixers, the Spirits were also on this single drop."*



**1920 James Cowgill middle row far left, Clement Cowgill next right, John Cowgill 4th from left, Edwin Cowgill front extreme right**

Peter also tells many other stories of the club including *"The cellar had a pet toad which lived on the beer flies and was photographed in a babycham glass by the local press. The upstairs room had a stage and dance floor. Turns were put on every Saturday night. Some of the many Earby characters associated with the club included - John Pickles, Bill Schollick, Brian Osleton, Tommy McDade, Bill Luty, John and Peter Bradley, and possibly Ken Bradley. The Steward was Mr Bob Jackman. There were some real characters*

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*amongst the members, Harold Duxbury, old George Preston, Ken Moorhouse, Fred Dolphin, Harry (Bulger), Tiny Wardell, Jimmy the Noo, a good pianist when sober, and so many more. There was one man, a Scot, called Eric who had been a Prisoner of War in Germany; his belt buckle was the logo of Stalag IV B. Once in the early hours of the morning at home on Red Lion Street I was knocked up by the Police. The club's alarm had been set off. I went down with them and unlocked the club. When they went in they found a local man sat eating a pie and washing it down with bottled beer; he had also helped himself to cigarettes etc. I do not remember the outcome. The staff over the years included Colin Hartley, Eva Holgate and Tiny Wardell's son and daughter; the son later became Steward of the Central Club, and there was also Bob Jackman's wife Audrey".*

Up until the 1970's, like a lot of men's drinking clubs, women's admission was limited and they were only allowed in on Saturday evenings, and then only into the main bar area and upstairs if there was entertainment on; definitely not into the "tap/games" room or the snooker room; but over time this was changed to any time other than Fridays. The upstairs room housed a stage and dance floor; it was a popular venue for Saturday night dance bands and other concerts.



**Possibly the 1960s**

In the 1990's customers started to dwindle and that style of venue became unfashionable. The club started losing money and it was sold to a businessman from Keighley who changed it to "The Midas Club". This however did not last long and the building stood empty for several years before being bought by a developer who is now altering the building into flats. The Brass Band however is still going and now practices in the All Saints Church Hall. They keep busy with regular engagements and concerts. They have rehearsals on Thursday evenings 7.30 – 9.30pm.

For more information on the band look at their web site [www.earbybrassband.co.uk](http://www.earbybrassband.co.uk)

## MEMORIES FROM HODGE SYKE

An extract out of Martin Hoyle's memories of Hodge Syke *with additional material by his niece, Barbara Hartley*

### KATHERINE BRUCE GLASIER

"Mrs Bruce Glasier was a neighbour who lived with her invalid sister, Evaline Conway, at the bottom of Mill Brow in the house now known as Glen Cottage. She was a widow who was a great worker for the Labour party and knew all the Labour politicians of the 1920's and 30's. She wrote for the Northern Voice and lectured for Women's Education. She had been married to John Bruce Glasier who died from cancer (I think colonic).

They lived in Manchester and one day Katherine came to give a talk in Barnoldswick and said she was looking for a house and the next day she was taken to see a cottage on Mill Brow and she bought it. It has a very long back garden which included the waterfalls. (*I was told that Mrs Bruce Glasier had a vision about coming to Earby and finding a place to live there – but how true this is I don't know*).

She had two sons and a daughter Jeannie who was married to an Australian and one day he was swimming in the sea near Sydney and was killed by a shark. The eldest son was Malcolm who ran away to sea from Liverpool and ended up as being the MD of Holt Shipping Line. The youngest son Glen was a pupil teacher at a public school in Saffron Walden and he was killed when, during a football match, a boy kicked a ball against his chest which stopped Glen's heart and he never recovered.

For a long time Mrs Bruce Glasier was like a deranged woman. She could be seen often roaming the countryside often without a coat rushing past talking aloud to herself. She had a house keeper, Tiny Draper, who came from Liverpool and she had a niece called Queenie who often came to stay and became a very good friend of my sister, Vera. Her husband Percy Draper was 2<sup>nd</sup> purser on the Lusitania and survived its sinking by a German U boat in 1915.

After a time KBG recovered and her invalid sister helped that. Tiny Draper went back to Liverpool and John Bruce Glasier's sister Elizabeth (Katherine's sister-in-law) and husband Frederick, Mr and Mrs Glasier Foster came to live at Earby with KBG in the cottage now known as Glen Cottage. Elizabeth (*Mrs Foster*) was a very nice lady. (*Elizabeth wrote the Embroidery and Design in the New Stitchery book which she inscribed and gave to my mother, on the day of her wedding.*)

Frederick Foster became a West Riding County Councillor (*and I think he was also a Governor of Alder Hill School*) and he bought an early Austin 7 to travel in. He started a youth movement for the young boys around Earby and took us on hikes or in his car to several sites in the Dales like Alum Pot and Ingleton. Mrs Bruce Glasier levelled part of her garden for a football field for the boys but when I was about 11 there was some incident in which Mrs Bruce Glasier became very cross and stopped the field being used.

Katherine had a brother called Dr Conway who was very grand and used to come and stay for holidays at Glen Cottage. Dr Conway was an Organist at a cathedral – possibly Ely\*.

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In the 1930's my brother John and his friends Alton Hartley, Stanley Higson and others who worked at the Council offices were regular walkers and campers mainly in the Lake District and often spent holidays there. One year Mrs Bruce Glasier lent them a big frame tent which they put up in a field near Fiddling Clough and John and Alton slept up there every night through the summer.

### Note from Martin's niece, Barbara Hartley

*My own memories are largely from others especially my Granny – Pauline Mary Hoyle and Martin's mother - who lived at Hodge Syke from about 1905 to 1955 and who was always known as Mary. I was about eight when Mrs Bruce Glasier died – I remember her coming up to Hodge Syke with friends but it is Rita (Ruddy) whose family lived at the bottom end house of the terrace below Hodge Syke who remembers more. She told me recently of Raymond Unwin and his wife visiting Hodge Syke and commenting on the wonderful blue coloured material that she was sewing. I was also told that many of the visitors to Glen Cottage were brought up to Hodge Syke because Mary was a good conversationalist and used to entertain Katherine's literary and political friends. Certainly Katherine and Mary became very good and mutually supportive friends. I imagine they both had similar views about improving the lot of the working man and woman. When I got accepted by Manchester University in the 60's Mary told me that she once went to Victoria University – as it was then – with Mrs Bruce Glasier either to listen to her speak or listen to another and it had made a big impression on her.*

\*Editor's note

Dr Marmaduke Percy Conway was indeed organist at Ely Cathedral.

### Reference

The Organs and Organists of Ely Cathedral by Nicholas Thistlethwaite 1931-49: MARMADUKE PERCIVAL CONWAY (b. 1885; d. 1961). The first 20 years of Conway's career as organist from the age of 15 were spent in Eastbourne. During the early part of that time he held a scholarship at the Royal College of Music. While still in Eastbourne he took the Oxford degree of B. Mus. and the Dublin degree of Mus.D. as an external candidate. After experience as assistant organist of Wells Cathedral he became organist of Chichester Cathedral in 1925.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE ARTHUR GREENWOOD CH MP	
requests the pleasure of the company of	
<i>Ms Hoyle, Senr.</i>	
in the Members' Dining Room of the House of Commons	
on Wednesday, May 14th, 1952	
at 3.45 p.m.	
to set up a National Appeal Committee	
to inaugurate the	
KATHARINE BRUCE GLASIER MEMORIAL FUND	
AFTERNOON TEA	RSVP to GILBERT McALLISTER ESQ 1 The Grove, Highgate Village, N 6
THIS CARD SHOULD BE PRESENTED ON ARRIVAL	

## JAMES HARRISON – MAN OF MANY OCCUPATIONS 1839 – 1914

Mary Bowford

Many years ago in the days of microfiche, as described in the talk by Christine Bradley, I received a copy of my Great Grandfather's birth certificate. Although I was at the time living in Shropshire, I took the opportunity when visiting relatives in Bradford to ask questions regarding this gentleman. I knew he was born at Birch Hall in Earby in 1839, the son of Elijah Harrison, born Highgate, Earby in 1819 and Mary Holdsworth the daughter of Benjamin Holdsworth born in Carleton in 1810. From census returns I ascertained that the family remained in the Earby area until just before the 1851 census, when the sixth child of the family was born in Wilsden, West Yorkshire. Two of Elijah's brothers, William and Thomas also moved over to Wilsden, probably seeking work, as this was a time of unrest and turmoil in the cotton and woollen industries as technology allowed many of the jobs previously done by humans to be taken over by machines. Elijah was a hand loom weaver; his brother Thomas was also a hand loom weaver and William a power loom weaver. William, the first of the brothers to leave Earby for better prospects, probably encouraged his brothers to follow suit. He became a travelling pedlar as time went on, but his brothers became overlookers in the mill, demonstrating that they had accepted the technology and worked with it.



Great Grandfather Harrison at 18 painted by Nichol of Wilsden

Elijah and Mary had six children to my knowledge, James being the eldest. At the age of thirteen he was a spinner at a mill in Wilsden – probably having started at the tender age of ten or even earlier as a half-timer. There were thirteen mills in and around Wilsden at the time, and many of the workers had very poor working conditions. Whether this experience galvanised James into attempting to “better himself” I do not know, but he certainly never stopped trying.

By the age of twenty two he too was an overlooker in the mill. Ten years later the census tells us that he was a worsted manufacturer employing forty five hands. Unfortunately James was dogged by ill fortune or misjudgement, for his “rise in the ranks” was short lived. According to an elderly relative who has since died, James had at different times in his life three manufacturing mills which all failed. I discovered that this was quite a common occurrence in the 1870s to 1890s and probably beyond that time. To better oneself many people with a little money to spare tried to branch out on their own or with a partner, usually renting part or the whole of a mill.

From the London Gazette of 25<sup>th</sup> August 1876 I discovered the notice regarding “ special resolution for liquidation by arrangement of the affairs of James Harrison and Thomas

Whitwam of Beckfoot Mill and Victoria Mill. Later a notice informed the general public that the widow of Thomas Whitwam was continuing the business at Beckfoot Mill. Apart from these notices, I have no “paper chase” regarding James’ mill management.

James married twice and had six children by his first wife Mary, and five children by his second wife Catherine. On various baptismal and marriage records I have managed to find he is referred to as a jeweller, a wool-stapler, a mail-cloth manufacturer and a hosier. He is photographed outside his Haberdashers and Hatters shop in Royal Arcade, Keighley in the early 1900s and later running a Fancy Goods shop in Allerton. Finally in 1914 on his death certificate his occupation is stated as Tea Dealer.

When one puts these occupations in date order, one can see that not only were they governed by ability to source a market for the goods, but also by the state of the nation and the global situation affecting manufacturing. In that respect one could say – nothing changes.

James Harrison’s grave is in Scholemoor cemetery, Bradford. There is no inscription apart from name and dates. I think it should say – he gave everything a go, and for that he gains my respect.

## **SOCIETY MEMBER HONOURED WITH COMMUNITY AWARD**

Member, Dorothy Bullock, has been awarded the 2016 Malcolm King Award for services to the Earby community. The award was founded in memory of Rev Malcolm King and is presented by Earby and District Churches Together for outstanding contributions in the wider community, not just the churches. The late Malcolm King was a stalwart of Earby’s community.

The award presented at a special dinner was for Dorothy’s work for New Road Community Centre, Earby and District Gardeners Society, craft clubs, brownies and All Saints Church.

Earlier in the year Dorothy also received a brooch and certificate in recognition of her 50 years of service to the Guiding movement. Dorothy is a keen family historian having family connections with Carleton in particular.

We wish Dorothy hearty congratulations.

## **PRIVATE HENRY E C S MOORHOUSE**

A case study by Rod Moorhouse

The autumn edition of ‘Earby Chronicles’ included an article by the Editor entitled *‘Reflections on the battle of the Somme’*. November 2016 marks the end of that horrendous conflict and the Earby History Society thought it fitting to remember those young men from the village who gave their lives. There had been a ceremony at a local cenotaph. Included in the list of those recorded on this memorial is the name of a Moorhouse. This led to the following case study which is an attempt to add more detail to the existing evidence concerning his family history and Army career.

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Henry Edward Charles Squire Moorhouse was the son of Hannah Moorhouse who had lived in Keighley, Skipton and by the end of WW1 in Earby. Information from census records suggests that she and her daughters had moved from job to job in the weaving trade. Henry's father was a Bradford man but apparently not related to other Moorhouse families in Earby at that time.

Henry E C S Moorhouse had distinctive names but on some records he is difficult to find as he is simply called Henry. His entry on the WW1 Roll of Honour provided by 'Ancestry.com' provides detailed information; he was a Private in the Duke of Wellington's [West Riding Regiment] and was killed in action on September the 3<sup>rd</sup> 1916 aged 22. His grave is in the Connaught Cemetery in France. Cross referencing this information using the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website confirms all the previously found details and also states that his regimental number was 6/3444. Connaught cemetery is situated at Thiepval.

Using the basic facts about his Army Career it is possible to find more details on Ancestry in 'WW1 Soldiers' Records'. He is listed under Private Henry Moorhouse, 3444. According to his Attestation form it appears that he joined the Territorial Force on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 1914 and was assigned to the Duke of Wellington's 8th Reserve Battalion. He was sent to France on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1915 where he was assigned to the 6<sup>th</sup> battalion, part of the 49<sup>th</sup> Division.

Private Henry Moorhouse can be found in '*Cravens Part in the Great War*'. Apart from various summaries of all the above information the book contains two photographs of this soldier and reports from local news papers about letters sent to Henry's mother. They outline the nature of his death and the fact that his younger brother James was wounded in the same action. In accordance with the policy at the time letters to next of Kin were honest but limited to the bare facts. In the case of Henry a letter was sent to his mother from his Company Commander paying tribute to his effort and his bravery but without any details about his death. Eventually Mrs Moorhouse heard from her surviving son, James; he had been taken prisoner and was held in a prison of war camp in Germany.

Apart from the official letters and the whereabouts of Henry's grave it is doubtful whether his mother ever received any more information about the circumstances of Henry's death. Other sources state that detailed descriptions of the death of a soldier were difficult to obtain. After a lapse of one hundred years it is now possible to access many of the official war diaries kept by officers in the field. They are available at the Nation Archives and have recently been digitised and released online.

In the case of Private Henry Moorhouse there is sufficient information to track down the diaries for his battalions actions and to pinpoint the tragic events which occurred on the day he was killed. The diary of the 1/6<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Duke of Wellingtons Regiment serving with the 49<sup>th</sup> Division states that on the 2nd of September 1916 three companies were at the front preparing trenches and other positions in preparation for the next assault on the enemy.

According to the diary, on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5.10 a.m. a heavy bombardment started up against the German positions. Five minutes later the assault began on a broad front involving two Brigades. The 147<sup>th</sup> Brigade, which included four companies of the 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Riding Regiment, moved forward against very little opposition and soon achieved their objective. On their left the 146<sup>th</sup> Brigade was heavily bombed and therefore

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unable to proceed. Without the support of this Brigade the 147<sup>th</sup> had to withdraw. During this process one of the dugouts was 'blown in' by a shell killing six men. There were many more casualties and somewhat unusually both officers and ordinary ranks are all listed in the diary for that day.

At the top of the list of casualties are six men who were killed in this action. Clearly this is the group who were all killed by a shell 'blowing in' the dugout. The second soldier on the list is '3444 Private Moorhouse, H of A Coy, killed by a shell'. It is also recorded lower down the list that '3698 Private Moorhouse J B, of A Coy', had shell shock – it is possible that this soldier was Henry's brother.

The aim of this study was to find all the available information surrounding the death of Henry E C S Moorhouse who had lived for part of his life in Earby. The evidence is scattered and there is no guarantee that it is complete; e.g. there may be letters or photographs he sent home in the possession of his descendants. Nevertheless it is always worth publishing any findings which add to established history in the hope that others may take up the quest for further information.

**Footnote:** Henry's name is also listed on the Skipton War Memorial and on Holy Trinity Church, Skipton, second bronze memorial plaque.

**References online:** Cravens Part in the Great War- [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk)  
WW1 War diaries can be found under Ancestry.com. on the home page click on 'see all new records'  
Census records etc. – ancestry .com and Free BMD

### **Other background reading:**

*'Testament of Youth' by Vera Brittain – 1923, still in print, includes letters from the fronts in France and Italy and details descriptions of her quest to find out how her lover and her brother were killed in Action.*

## SOCIETY NEWS

### SUCCESSFUL BOOK LAUNCH

In September the Society held a successful launch of its recent publication, "Skeletons in the Cupboard—True Crime Stories of Earby and District", researched by Stephanie Carter and costing £10. A small exhibition on local crime and on the work of the Society was also staged in the Community Centre. Excellent refreshments were provided by Jess and enjoyed by all. The book is still available from the Society at the monthly talks or from the Archive Room on Friday mornings. You can also order a copy by post from our Treasurer Wendy Faulkner at Lower Burnt Hill Farm, Skipton Old Rd., Colne BB8 7ER. The cost including P&P is £12.50.

The next project is on the subject of holidays. If you would like to share your memories please get in touch with Stephanie. Articles for the Chronicles are also urgently needed.

We are still seeking more members to actively assist in any way to help the Society to continue and thrive. Please get in touch.

## Earby Chronicles



Above- At the book signing .Below -Refreshments -would look better in colour!



### PROGRAMME

- 17th January— Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Mike Clarke  
21st February— AGM  
21st March— A Few of my Favourite Things from Lancashire Archives, Alan Crosby  
18th April— Liverpool Cow Keepers, David Joy  
16th May— The Vale of York Hoard, Joyce Hill

**PRODUCED  
& printed  
by  
Earby & District  
Local History  
Society.**

#### 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**  
Local £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