

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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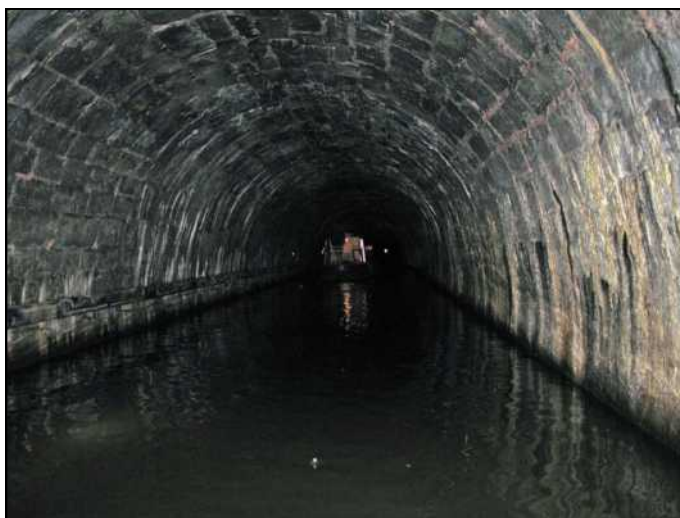
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OPENING OF THE FOULRIDGE TUNNEL IN 1796



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The following account is taken from
The Blackburn Mail
11th May 1796

On Monday 2nd May 1796 the committee of Proprietors of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and all the principal gentlemen about Colne, met at The Red Lion Inn and dined together. On Tuesday morning May 3rd a great number of gentlemen from Burnley came to Colne, preceded by a band of music. Thence the procession to the tunnel commenced about 11 o'clock in the following order: The Band of the Corps of Bradford Volunteers in front, followed by Mr Whitworth the

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engineer; Mr Samuel Fletcher the undertaker (i.e. contractor) of the tunnel; gentlemen of the committee; two pieces of cannon, and part of the Artillery Company belonging to the above Corps; then the Burnley Band, and the gentlemen of the town. The procession was attended by all the gentlemen who reside near the line of that part of the canal.

About 12 o'clock the unmooring of five vessels at the east end of the tunnel, filled with ladies, gentlemen and others, with colours flying, was announced by firing several rounds of the cannon, and the shouts and acclamations of an innumerable concourse of people. The tunnel was traversed in 40 minutes by the heaviest sailing vessel, and the company proceeded to the first lock, when a cold collation was prepared, and from thence to Burnley, attended by an increasing and applauding multitude.

At some distance from Burnley, the company in the first boat were surprised at the sudden appearance of fifteen youths, the sons of the most respectable tradesmen in and about Burnley, smartly and uniformly dressed, who, seeing the hauling line, drew that boat to the Basin there. The effect of this pleasant incident was enhanced by the presence of a number of ladies, who came on board the vessel. The landing of the company was announced by the discharge of cannon. From the Basin the procession to the Bull Inn was in the same order as from Colne to the tunnel. At this inn, and the Thorne Inn, dinners were prepared for the company and the gentlemen attending.

On Tuesday evening there was a splendid public ball at Colne, and on Thursday evening the same at Burnley, to celebrate this auspicious event. This extraordinary piece of workmanship (the tunnel) was planned by Robert Whitworth Esq., engineer to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company, and executed by Mr Samuel Fletcher, with astonishing correctness and stability, many intelligent persons having predicted that insuperable difficulties would prevent the completion of it, but resolution and ingenuity overcame every obstacle. The length is 1,630 yards, its height near 18 feet, and its width 17 feet. It was undertaken by Mr Fletcher in 1792, when 1,400 yards of the most difficult part remained to be done, and has been completed in little more than three years. It is universally allowed to be the most complete work of the kind in England, if not in Europe.

TIPPY'S STORY (IN MEMORY OF FRANCIS FORREST WHO PASSED AWAY IN SEPTEMBER 2019)

Margaret Brown and the Late Francis Forrest

Many of you will have stories about Francis; his endless jokes, happy chatter, cheerful wave and of course his stories. He will be sadly missed by all Earbyers. I have known Francis all my life. My parents, Francis and his wife Margaret were members of Barnoldswick Clarion and friends from their teenage years.

Below is an article by Francis Forrest, one time postie of Earby. A year or so ago he gave me this article to use sometime in the Chronicles. I thought it was about time it was published.

"One of the best things about living in a small town is the characters that live in the place. In a large town they would get lost in all the hustle and bustle, but in Earby they stand out and over the years great stories are told of their exploits. One such is Tippy; many will not know his name but will have heard of his deeds. He

was a large energetic black and white Border collie dog, with a passion for postmen, but not in the usual way of wanting to bite them. He loved them and wanted to spend as much time as possible with them. In the late 1970's and early 80's he was often seen in their company whether they wanted him or not.

Traditionally all dogs hate postmen - it is a well known fact, or is it? Just now and again the exception crops up and a canine companion crops up and accompanies the postman on his rounds. Such is the case with me who tramped the streets of Earby, for our four legged friend is an extra large sheep dog complete with curly tail name of "Tippy". One of our number had given him the nick- name of Old Master because he masters all the other dogs who harass us on our walks. It is uncanny how he knows when and where we start and once he latches on to one of us there is no shaking him off. Any attempt to do so is met by protestations and bionic leaps over garden gates. Possessing a devastating bark, which can be heard miles away, he gives chase to cars, bikes, cats and indeed anything that moves. One day much to the dismay of his current postie friend he flew hell for leather at a police motorcyclist and was promptly and frantically disowned by one worried postman.

Tippy will just not comply with the post office rule which states "no unauthorized persons in post office vehicles" and in order to exercise his right to sit on the warm engine he protrudes the less savoury parts of his anatomy in our faces. Once he spots the mail van it is no good trying to outpace him. He once chased us for a mile and a quarter to our next stop and demanded his position as shotgun once more. Even over the roar of the engine he barks at all and sundry and makes old ladies tremble with fear. Possessing a prodigious appetite he will snaffle anything edible. In a back yard one day an unfortunate cat lost its breakfast and all in a fancy bowl when Tippy's super sensitive snitch sniffed it all out under a low bench. Later he tried to add the cat to his diet but was foiled by its feline speed and a large prickly bush. So he turned his attention to a wire haired terrier here on holiday from Scotland. He was just giving the poor animal a real pasting when its owner arrived to break up the scrap. He was most understanding about it all. One of our number has made the fatal mistake of giving the old Master the occasional biscuit and for his kindness he has been roused from his slumbers by a booming bark so persistent that the only answer is to chauffeur drive one large dog to the porch of his home.

His maniacal dashes at cars have caused us real worry from time to time. One day he was a bit slow and was badly clobbered by a van. This put him by the fireside for a week, but then he was back in action again as anti-car as ever. Yes Tippy still rules supreme with us posties and long may he bless us with his dominant, all-consuming personality."

Francis Forrest

Also one of Earby's Characters.

I too, have experience of Tippy's pugilism. One morning our Labrador was dozing in the lobby with one eye on the world through the glass paneled front door, when along came the postman and Tippy. Already having met and decided that they didn't like one another there was no holding back. They went for each other growling, snarling and trying their best to tear into each other. Fortunately (or unfortunately) the glass-panelled front door was between them. The glass could not take the strain and several large cracks were the result and we were left with a bill for a new glass!!

Margaret Brown

THREE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM JOHN TURNER



Top June 1950 with the Maypole

Below left July 1959 School trip to Ireland

Below right Alder Hill Head teacher Mr Armitage

OLD-TIME CHRISTMASES – EARBY IN OTHER DAYS

Edward Hudson – 74 not out- Barnoldswick and Earby Times December 1941

Ted Hudson, link with old Earby, now in his 74th year (**born 1867**) but always ready to smile and tell a story, can look back into the **Earby of the 1879s** and draw vivid pictures of these “white” and sometimes black Christmases when snowdrifts and hard frosts, as well as hard times for the workers, were a common experience. One year the beck was frozen over for 17 weeks, and all outdoor workers were thrown out of employment. “They had to open a soup kitchen for them”, said Ted, “to keep them from starving”. There was no unemployment insurance or Government doles of any kind in those days. “When nowt was coming in you had to depend on other folk and they were mostly in t ’same boat as yourself”. Twice weaving sheds in the district were burned down, and when Bracewells “banked” many workers had to leave the district.

During one of these periods Ted Hudson and a friend, Jimmy Cowgill, secured employment at Marton doing ditching, fencing and afforestation work on a large estate. They remained there for a considerable time, receiving a weekly wage of 16/- per week, and walking backward and forward each day. One day the owner and his wife happened to pass the workers on the estate, and they with one accord, stopped work, touched their forelocks and bent down as their employers passed. “We did not” said Ted, “and next day we were handed a letter saying that our services were no longer required. So we came back”.

But there were good times as well as bad in those far-off days. Christmas was always a “reet do” in Earby. Practically everyone had roast beef and Yorkshire and a big plum pudding on the table and something to drink. There was a good deal of drinking in those days. Raffles and draws were very popular and parties on Christmas night went on until early morning. The Brass Band would go out at 6am on Christmas morning and the day before and play all over the town, finishing up at Thornton. The Baptist and Wesleyan choirs sang carols in the streets until long after midnight.

“Feast” and St. Valentine’s Day were also thought a lot of. At Feast-time (*July*) many reunions of families took place in the homes. On the Sunday nearest the 10th – Feast day - concerts and tea parties were given to the children in the Sunday Schools, and on Monday they all “walked to Green End”, the home of the Bracewells, and were royally entertained. On Tuesday nearly the whole of Earby went on the trip to Morecambe, which cost 2/-, and on Wednesday everybody – or most everybody- went back to work.

All kinds of mischievous devices and surprises were contained in the packages sent to friends on St. Valentine’s Day. The newsagents’ shops were stocked out with grotesque pictorial designs and verses intended for this purpose, and sometimes such things as smoked or kippered herrings decorated with blue ribbons were sent through the post as St. Valentine greetings.

But Earby residents in those days were not always frivolous. Pictures of the old Mechanics’ Institute in Chapel Square, Red Lion Street, with “Doad” Wilkinson in spectacles and by the light of a candle, reading in his rich voice to a fascinated audience at the “Penny Readings”, will testify to that. As also will the walking ceremonies and beck-side baptisms which took place before the Baptist Chapel was built in Chapel Square. The Mechanics’ Institute was afterwards transferred to where the Liberal Club now stands, and many exciting incidents

took place within its walls – lectures and discussions, amateur theatricals, conjurors and mesmerists, each in their turn occupied the premises and provided entertainment and enlightenment for the public. A celebrated mesmerist, named Professor Balm, visited Earby, toured the town accompanied by the Brass Band, and then proceeded to cure all the ills that flesh is heir to for miles around. He even attended people's homes, where the sufferers could not come out. Rheumatism disappeared as by magic drawn through the racked bodies and out at their toes – so they were told and believed. Bed-ridden folk leapt out of bed and walked gaily downstairs. Crooked limbs were straightened and swollen joints subsided. There seemed no doubt of the authenticity of the cures, which appeared to be genuine. Performances at the Hall were no less awe-inspiring. Staid and respected citizens were induced to dive off the platform on to the floor of the hall and give a demonstration of swimming to the audience, or perform some equally fantastic trick while under mesmeric influence. A friend taken by Ted Hudson to one of these meetings caught the baleful eye of the professor and "felt himself going". He ran off home as quickly as he could. That appeared to be a very near thing!

Another dispenser of the mystic arts, this time a conjuror, Professor Bosco drew chickens and eggs at will out of a station-master's hat, cut off the heads of pigeons, replaced them, and let them fly about the hall, and did other hair-raising feats of subtle magic. He also, prior to the performances, toured the town escorted by the local brass band, and doubtless by a large section of the population. What a lot of innocent amusement we lose nowadays! Often in the streets too could be seen a travelling acrobat performing on a carpet spread on the ground to facilitate his tumbling, or a rumbling brown Russian bear dancing with shuffling steps to the sombre strains of a hurdy gurdy.

Fair days and troubled days! Life changes, but in some respects, so it is said, it remains the same. May the homes of Earby this Christmastide be filled no less with sweet companionship and the sound of happy laughter. That is an old timer's wish – and his wife's – for 1942.

KLONDYKE ENQUIRY

Roy Payne has contacted the Society about Klondyke, Salterforth, in the 1940's.

Roy writes that he came to live with his maternal grandparents Tom and Liz Baker on Alpha Street in the early 1940's. Also living there were his great grandmother and his uncle Brian.

Roy's father had been called up at the start of the war and his grandparents had moved to Salterforth from the Coventry area. His grandfather, Tom, worked for the Rover Company and was transferred to one of the Rover shadow factories (probably Barnoldswick) which were set up in the West Craven area to replicate war work being done in the Coventry factories.

The most devastating raid on Coventry was in November 1940 when the Luftwaffe targeted the city's factories in an operation they codenamed Operation Moonlight Sonata. Inevitably there was much collateral damage to the city and its residents.

Roy was enrolled at Salterforth school and remembers walking down to the village school in his clogs with his friends John and George Metcalf.

He also remembers an elderly gentleman called Hewitt (probably John Hewitt of 1 Park Avenue) and the Thistlethwaite family.

Roy's Uncle Brian was called up for the Royal Navy while the family were living in Alpha Street.

Roy's father survived the war and Roy himself left Klondyke to live with his paternal grandparents in Leicestershire and never returned to Salterforth.

Roy is wondering if any one has any memories, either their own or perhaps family memories of Klondyle and Salterforth during the 1940s which he could share. If you have, please contact the Editor in the first instance.

IN LOVING MEMORY – THE HALLAMS PART 1

Stephanie Carter

This investigation begins with the discovery of a very large tomb in St. Mary's churchyard, Kelbrook.



There are six inscriptions:

William Hallam of Beckfoot, Kirkby Stephen and Moorlands, Colne Died 23 August 1910 aged 64

Margaret Hallam, wife of William Hallam Died 19 December 1899 aged 59

Edward Hallam, son of William and Margaret Hallam of Moorlands Died 20 September 1873 in his 2nd year

Frederick William Hallam son of William and Margaret Hallam Died 26 March 1945 aged 75

Alice Hallam daughter of William and Margaret Hallam Died 26 March 1946 aged 65 years

Ann Hallam oldest daughter of William and Margaret Hallam Died 11 December 1947 aged 71 years

William Hallam/James Hallam and off-spring

William Hallam was born in Skipton and baptised at Holy Trinity church 2 April 1846.

His parents were **James and Ann (nee Wilkinson) Hallam**. The 1851 census shows the family living in Albert Street, Skipton – James 31 worsted spinner and manufacturer born Embsay, Ann 27 born Skipton, Mary Ann 8, William 5, Sarah 3, Clara 11 months.

James had married Ann Wilkinson in 1841 at Otley. Ann was 18 and was living in Burley in Wharfedale. Her father was Thomas Wilkinson a farmer.

James's father (born 1819) was John Hallam, a worsted spinner. He and wife Elizabeth had 12 children.

Soon after the 1851 census **James and Ann Hallam** moved to Marsden Hall in Marsden (Nelson). Mrs Hallam was one of two surviving distant cousins of the Walton family. In 1852 another son was born to James and Ann Hallam – Richard Thomas Roe Walton Hallam (brother of William).

In 1853 there was a tea party for 500 at the Marsden Mechanics Institute, presided over by Mr J Hallam Esq, president of Marsden Hall.

In 1856 owing to severe weather in Skipton much damage was done when the bank of the Leeds Liverpool canal opposite James Hallam's mill collapsed. The flood gates, which were very near, were immediately put up which reduced the amount of flooding. As it was the mill was filled with water and the bank of the mill dam was broken by the amount of water rushing from the canal. Boats were unable to go on the canal for two days, and consequently a number of rock men removing rock from Skipton Rock were out of work. It was said that the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Co. had a right of action against James Hallam Esq. of Marsden Hall for having erected at a cost of £200 some flood gates in the beck in Skipton near the canal, which had loosened and so undermined the bank so that it gave way. The rock men were also claiming for their lost wages.

In June 1857 Richard Hartley, gardener to Mrs Hallam of Marsden Hall exhibited plants, grapes, figs and cucumbers at a local show.

James Hallam died aged 38 in 1857 at Marsden Hall. Mr Hallam had been a large landowner in the Colne and Nelson area. Before his death he divided his estate into five portions, writing the names of the various properties on five pieces of paper. Each child (William, Mary Ann, Sarah, Clara and Richard) drew a piece and inherited the property named. They all became wealthy landowners.

In 1861 William, aged 15 was a pupil at a school in Blackburn. His mother Ann had remarried and was living with her husband William Stansfield at Horsfield Cottage, Colne Field – William Stansfield 43 landed proprietor b Windsor Berkshire, Ann Stansfield 39, Henrietta Stansfield 2, Henry Stansfield 2 months, Clara Hallam 11, Richard Hallam 8 and 2 servants. William and Ann with three young children and Richard Hallam aged 18 (an articled clerk) moved to East Parade in Colne.

In September 1899 William's eldest sister Mary Ann Hallam (born 1841 Skipton) married Jabez McDiermid, solicitor, born Rye Sussex, from Clapham Middlesex. In 1871 they were living at Buccleugh Terrace, Hackney, London with two young children and two of Mary Ann's sisters – Sarah Hallam 23 and Clara Hallam 21

In 1881 Sarah Hallam and Clara Hallam, both unmarried and described as landowners, were living at Moorside House Altham. In 1891 Sarah Hallam was visiting Mary Ann and

Jabez at Warrington Crescent, Paddington. Aged 42 she was unmarried and a landowner.

Mary Ann (nee Hallam) died at Bury Manor House Sussex in 1916 and left £17,034

Richard T R W Hallam a solicitor, had married Margaret Hartley of Marsden in 1872 and they had 8 children and he died in 1914 at Morecambe and left £33,599

Clara Hallam married James Haworth, solicitor, Accrington at Altham Parish Church 27 August 1885. His father was William Haworth clerk in holy orders at Fence. Clara youngest daughter of late James Hallam Marsden Hall (Sarah and William Hallam signed as witnesses)

Clara died in 1941 aged 89 – She had lived at Moorside House Altham – a house with 17 rooms. (To be continued)

MARSDEN HALL, NELSON

Article Nelson Leader 7 July 1939 by Arthur Smith, Mortdale, New South Wales, Australia

So Marsden Hall has been demolished! This I gathered from a note in the Leader of March 24th, and I read it with regret, for Marsden Hall was associated with some of the pleasing memories of my youth. It was at Walton hall, as Marsden Hall was locally known in those days, that we as Sunday School scholars went every Whit Monday, and where, after hymns had been sung, we scrambled for sweets that were thrown to the assembled and excited children. Perhaps not a hygienic method of distributing sweets, but what did a few grains of grit or dirt matter to young folks when we were able to rub them off on our trousers or frocks.

Then as we grew older, the lane running through the plantation was a perpetual delight, and to stand on the bridge and peer through the trees or down into the dry creek that ran through the wood stirred one's imagination and was the cause of many stolen rambles amongst the accumulated growth of many years.

Another intriguing feature of the Hall and the grounds was the profusely decorated stonework that was to be seen in every direction. The gateways were to us in our youth superb examples of sculptural art; the ironwork was particularly decorative, and touched as everything was with decay, the ironwork rusting and carved images laid broken on the ground, it needed little imagination to picture the scene as a garden of romance and suitable for an old romantic story with its haunted rooms and canny corners. In the woods at dying day the rustling leaves would make us start and look round in expectation of seeing the spirit of some old-time warrior in heavy armour.

But it was not always so. Over a hundred years ago the gardens were a picture and a pleasure to behold. This I learned from old people, long since dead, and whose fathers handed down stories of the beauty of the place.

I have not seen Marsden Hall for nearly 25 years, and what alterations have been made I do not know; but surely it was unnecessary to demolish the old hall in order to provide an open air swimming pool and café. I know I am venturing on controversial grounds, but it seems to me – and I thought so when it was mooted some time ago- that the climatic conditions in Nelson, with the three months of allegedly warm weather and nine months of cool or cold weather, is not ideal for an open air swimming pool. Whatever success such a bath has had in a seaside resort in the South of England, with its thousands of visitors, it can scarcely

be a success in conditions such as exist in Nelson. Moreover, to pull down an historical building to build a café seems just as peculiar. To renovate the old-fashioned rooms and to transform them into a comfortable café with a touch of the olden days would, it seems to me, have been more attractive. It has been done in many cases and tea-shops all over the country that have been built to give an air of olden times to them, even to the copying of the old sign "Ye Old Tea Shoppe". But I have no desire to enter a controversy on the matter. I am too far away to do so with benefit to the readers of the Leader.

Walton and Marsden Hall

That Marsden Hall was a link with the history of Colne and Nelson, or Marsden as it originally was, cannot be doubted. The Waltons were the original owners of the estate on which the hall was built, and the family goes back many centuries. In 1362 Henry, Duke of Lancaster, in the second year of his duchy granted to William de Walton his Colne and Merlesden (Marsden) estates.

Four years later 58 acres in the same districts were bestowed on Richard de Walton, these to be held according to the custom of the manor. In addition to these 65 acres, also in Merlesden, were granted to the same person. This according to Dr Whittaker, the historian, seems to have been the origin of the Waltons becoming landed proprietors. The family seems to have been of some note in Colne for on them was given the privilege of appointing the bellman at Colne.

In this connection it is worth noting that at one time a bellman in Colne named Henry Simpson possessed a notice to the following effect-

"Notice is hereby given that I, the undersigned, have, in pursuance of the power invested in me, appointed Henry Simpson as bellman for the town and township of Colne, and hereby caution any person or persons against encroaching upon his privileges"

Signed James Hallam

This James Hallam, as I will show later, was by marriage with the Waltons the representative of the family at that time.

I have no date for the building of the original Marsden Hall, but it was re-built in 1740 by Henry Walton, and it was his son, Banastre Walton who, in 1775, gave a gift of land for the building of the Piece or Cloth Hall to Colne, and in which was erected a tablet bearing the following inscription:

"To Banastre Walton Esq. of Marsden for his voluntary gift of the land whereon this Hall was erected in 1775 this stone is gratefully inscribed by the Proprietors".

In addition to Banastre, Henry had another son, but both dying childless, the estate went to their cousin the Rev. Richard Wroe, Rector of Radcliffe, who was known as "Silver Toned" Wroe owing to the quality of his voice. On coming to the property he added to his name that of Walton. The reverend gentleman was married, and was the father of Richard Thomas Wroe Walton and his two sisters, and it was this member of the family who was chiefly responsible for the lavish decorative carvings about the grounds of the Hall. It was he also who was responsible for the erection of the spire on the high lands between Marsden Hall and Coldwell. No one seems to know why this was erected, but in my opinion it was probably because the spot marked the highest point in the estate, and that, and the owner's weakness for decoration, was the reason for its erection.

This Mr Walton and his two sisters were of a generous nature, and a century ago many poor people had cause to be thankful for this trait in his character, for he would stand at the gate and they gave monetary help to the waiting applicants.

Richard Thomas Wroe Walton died in April 1845 and was buried at Altham and the estate devolved to his sisters. The church of St. Johns has always been closely associated with Marsden hall. Prior to 1848 the district was served by the clergy of Colne Parish Church. In 1846 however a separate parish was formed, and owing to the generosity of the Misses Wroe Walton, St. John's church was built, the foundation stone being laid by Mr Gibson Rigg of Manchester, in an incessant downpour of rain. Later proceedings, at which an address by the Rev. Hugh Stowell of Christ Church Salford was given, were held in the adjoining barn. In 1848 the church was opened, the Rev. W Messenger, curate of Colne Parish Church, being appointed vicar.

Upon the death of the two Misses Wroe Walton, which occurred in 1848 and 1851, the executors made enquiries and found two heiresses, Mrs Hallam of Skipton and Mrs Fawcett of Burley, Yorkshire. Subsequently James Hallam took up his residence at the Hall, and at his death, left five children, from one of whom the Nelson Corporation purchased the property in 1912.

As stated in the Leader the Hall was for many years used as a private mental asylum, and it was such when I knew it over fifty years ago. Dr Pinder and his sister Mrs Bennett then lived at the Hall, and the latter like the Wroe Waltons, took a keen interest in St John's church. I knew a number of patients at the Hall and most of them being harmless roamed the grounds and one or two with someone in charge often went into the town.....

---Gradually the associations with the old home town grow less. Places that were a delight in my youth have been swept away in the encroachment of modern times and needs. Time takes its toll of all of us... but when one hears of the demolition of a link with the past when it might have been avoided the regret is keen. However the thing is done and I can only echo the words of the writer of the note in the Leader referred to at the beginning of this article "Farewell, Marsden Hall".

GREASBY LETTER

Bob Abel

Some years ago a transcript of a letter came into the Society archives. It was written in 1871 by Margaret Rushton (nee Greasby) to her sister in the USA.

Extracts from the letter are reproduced below as the letter reflects aspects of life at the time.

*Mill Brow, Earby, Yorkshire June 13th 1871,
My Dear Sister*

I think you cannot conceive the joy I felt on receiving your letter. I sent you one dated 6th May 1871 but I think you will not have got it. I directed it from one that sister Hannah sent me some twenty years ago, for I knew nothing of a fresh one (address?) until she sent me the letter you had sent her this year which she wished me to return for cousin Margaret to see. She would be much pleased to hear from you. She (cousin Margaret) was looking very well when I saw her last summer but I think she is not well at present... She told me she is worth about a thousand pounds through her marriage to Mr Bowler. She has a very fine boy... I went to Derby to see him. He is in the upper grammar school and learning Lat-

in, Greek and French. She thinks of getting him into a bank as soon as the opportunity presents itself so he may never have any hard work...

I went to see cousin Ann Gothard at Tibshelf when I was in Derbyshire last summer. I think they are doing pretty well. Her name is Marriott now... our old house looked a very forlorn place. I thought Shirland looked dirty too. I used to think William (sister Hannah's husband) would never prosper for his behaviour to Thomas... I call him a queer man yet and Hannah is in the old way yet, as scraping as a miser.

Well my dear sister ... now I will turn to myself. I have eight children living and all at home. Four girls go to the factory and bring ..12/- a week. Rushton (Mr) is in a stone quarry and he has 36/- per day (This sounds a lot and perhaps should be 36/- per week). John who is 13 is working with him. He has 2/- per day, so you see at present we are doing pretty well. I have three at home or rather going to school. I lost one last year. She was 19 years old. She was a very good girl... Our church pastor came to see her every other day and preached a very nice sermon... He is a very kind gentleman... he came sometimes, but it is a long way to church- it takes me about 40 minutes to walk there... but so free among the lower classes. He is next in order to the Bishop of York who sometimes pays him a visit at Thornton Rectory. We have no church in Earby. I have buried nine children in all. I will put you a card in this letter and you must send me word if you get it. I will post a newspaper for you on Sunday...

There is a man and his wife gone from Earby a few weeks since. They have sent a letter to say they have landed in Philadelphia... I have another neighbour that has a brother and family in New Jersey... So you see it gets very common going to and coming from America. I should like to see you all very much. I once remember you telling me that if you did well you would write, but if contrary you would never write at all. So I thought ... you were dead... I have thought about you thousands of times but I thanked and blessed God on my knees... for his wonderful mercies... I cried when I remembered I am only three fields away from Thornton Highgate where I was when my father was with me and I could not hear from you...

Well my dear sister we are thinking of building a house of our own soon as we can come to a conclusion about the land and other matters belonging to it.

We have had a great deal of sickness the last seven of eight years...

My husband and children join with me in love to you all. Sarah says she wishes she was going to America tomorrow...

The letter was addressed to Mr T Johnstone, 16 Hope Street, Utica, New York, North America and the original letter is now in the possession of Jeffrey M Johnstone.

Ann Greasby was mentioned with the transcript as possibly being the recipient of the letter in America.

So who were the Greasbys and how did they come to be in Earby? From the few names and places mentioned in the letter and the aid of online family history search sites we can piece together the family.

The 1851 census shows that a Margaret Rushton was living with her husband and two children at Highgate, Thornton. Her birth place is given as Shirland in Derbyshire. The place referred to in the letter. The eldest child was born in Skipton so the Rushtons presumably lived there for a while. A marriage entry for Skipton shows that Margaret Greasby (father William a farmer) married William Rushton of Broughton in 1848.

The 1861 and 1871 censuses have the now much expanded family living at Mill Brow, hence the reference to them living three fields away from Highgate.

The letter mentions that Margaret and William are intending to build their own house and the 1881 and 1891 censuses show that the family was living at Hodge Syke in Earby; so was this the house they built for themselves?

Their children appear to have been baptised at Thornton church.

William died in 1892. His occupation varied throughout his life. In 1848 he is described as a labourer on his marriage certificate but in 1851 at Highgate he gave his employment as wool comber and all other records show is as a quarryman (as mentioned in the letter).

The 1901 census reveals that Margaret is still living at Hodge Syke with two of her unmarried daughters and a cousin Margaret G Bowler an 86 year old lady of independent means. This is the cousin mentioned in the letter as having married a Mr Bowler.

It transpires that this was Margaret Bowler's second husband, as she had previously married a Peter Standen. Their son whom Margaret visited in Derby and who was at the upper grammar school there was also called Peter Standen. It was suggested that this son would be found a place in a bank. However on leaving the grammar school he went on to Edinburgh University to study and eventually qualified as a Surgeon and Physician.

Sister Hannah Greasby married William Wright.

Sister Anne Greasby married Thomas Johnstone in 1842 and between 1843 and 1849 they emigrated to America. (from the ages of their eldest two children the eldest being in born in England and the next in USA). Thomas made his living as a boat builder.

Cousin Ann Greasby Gothard (1818-1894) married George Marriott on Christmas Day 1837.

The question now is why did Margaret Greasby, the writer of the letter, end up in Earby?

One clue might be that there was another person living in Thornton in Craven in 1851 who was born in Shirland, like Margaret. She was Ann Whiteoak and she had married William Whiteoak in 1848 in Pinxton, Derbyshire. William was a journeyman joiner who was born in Broughton with Elslack Parish.

Presumably William was in Derbyshire working when he met and married Ann Frost. Pinxton was a thriving industrial village at the time with a coal mine, pottery and on the Cromford Canal.

Ann and Margaret were of the same generation only two years separating their births and they were probably friends in Shirland.

So perhaps William Whiteoak, Margaret's friend's husband, is the link to Broughton, Skipton and Earby with Shirland in Derbyshire.

EARBY's HOME GUARD

Information from Articles in Barnoldswick and Earby Times

Home Guard Concert – Happy Earby Event (December 1940)

The Earby Battalion of the Home Guard are to be well cared for during the winter as far as recreation is concerned. A social committee has been formed and an extensive programme of social events has been organised. The first of these events was held in the Jubilee Hall on Friday evening and was highly successful.

There was a large audience and in a brief opening speech the local Commanding Officer, Captain A H Clegg, extended a warm welcome to all present and hoped they would not regret having supported the event.

A large number of artistes participated in an enjoyable programme, including members of the Home Guard and Servicemen. They were Sapper Higgs (compere), Company Sergeant Collins (entertainer), Mr Townson (comedian), Mr F Forrest (tenor), Mr H Pawson (baritone), Mr R Ellis (tenor), Mr J Metcalfe (tenor), Mr G Foster (tenor), Messrs Francis and

Nutter (piano and piano accordion). Selections were also given by the Troubadours Dance Band. The entertainment was fully appreciated.

At the close a vote of thanks was accorded the opener, the organisers and the artistes at the proposition of Mr W Gaunt, seconded by Bolton Crowther. The concert arrangements were in the hands of Mr F Sankey (secretary) and Mr A Ray.

Earby's Home Guard – (February 1941)

The Earby Home Guard have done well by following the "All work and no play makes---" motto and forming a Social Committee to ensure a certain amount of recreation for its members, and it is interesting to note that they now have a balance in hand of £46. The net income is £63.7.9... Considering the Social Committee got to work only a short time ago this result is exceedingly good, and the secretary, Mr F Sankey, as well as other members of the committee are to be complimented upon a fine job of work. The secretary would like to thank the general public for their support.

Skipton Police Court –(June 1943)

Penalties of £16-£4 on each count were imposed on Frank Harris, Red Lion Street, Earby, for absenting himself from duty with the Home Guard on four occasions without reasonable excuse.

Supt. Parkinson stated that Harris, who did not appear, was warned to attend parades, and he absented himself on March 28th and 30th and April 1st and 4th. From his enrolment on October 27th 1942 to the date of the summons he had only attended five parades out of 74.

Major Crowther, in command of the Home Guard at Earby, said the defendant had not given a reasonable excuse as to why he had not attended the parades. Since his enrolment to the present time he had attended nine parades out of 116.

Supt. Parkinson stated that on February 20th last, defendant was fined £4 for failing to attend a Home Guard parade. He was a type of man who was going to do what he liked, said the Superintendent, and he thought the Bench ought to make an example of him.

Mock Raids on Earby – (August 1943)

An exercise to test and strengthen the liaison between the Civil Defence and Home Guard was held in Earby on Sunday morning. It began at 10 o'clock and lasted two hours. Exhaustive tests numbering about 30 had been devised by Mr R S Shaw JP (Head Warden) and Mr P Higson (Deputy Head Warden, Kelbrook, Thornton, Salterforth and Elslack as well as Earby being included in the exercise. H.E. bombs, parachute mines, unexploded bombs, road blocks and paratroop landings were covered by the incidents, the reporting of which was carried out with accuracy and despatch.

At 10.15 am the telephone system was held to have broken down and foot messengers, cyclists and motor cyclists came into the picture. Mr A Maclean was in charge of the Control Centre. Wardens, telephonists and Home Guard Intelligence and Signals staff took part in the exercise. Much useful information was gleaned from an inquiry on Tuesday morning, when the Sub-Controller Col. F Longden Smith M.C., T.D. attended.

**Honour for Earby Home Guard – Urban Council's Gesture –
(December 1944)**

Earby Urban Council on Wednesday evening paid glowing tributes to the Home Guard, making special mention of the local unit. On the motion of Mr A Oates J.P. (Chairman), who presided, seconded by Mr A H Clegg and supported by every member, the following resolution to be recorded in the minutes was passed:

"That following the Stand-Down Order recently issued to the Home Guards, this Council

hereby expresses its sincere appreciation and thanks to all ranks of the local Company and Battalion of the Home Guard for their unswerving loyal and devoted service unselfishly performed in the face of innumerable hardships during the many days of trial and dire peril since the original formation as a unit of the Local Defence Volunteers in 1940, and later as a proud integral part of the Home Guard."

The Clerk (Mr A Maclean) was instructed to forward copies of the resolution to the Section Commander (Col. G B Harrison), Battalion Commander (Lieut. Col. A Barr) and the officer commanding of D and E Companies (Major J B Crowther).

Mr Oates said he wished on behalf of the Council to express sincere thanks to the Home Guards for the way they had carried out their duties. Jokes had been made, yet in spite of the British habit of making fun of things, he thought people realised the great work that had been done and the thankfulness that was due.

Mr Clegg declared that it was both a privilege and pleasure to second the resolution that had been proposed in such a sincere manner by the Chairman. The Stand Down of the Home Guard was the end of a long and weary journey but also a very happy journey for most of the Home Guards' members. It was also the end of a rather sad and tragic interlude in national history.

"One of the greatest values of the Home Guard was that it was everywhere in this land – every moor, valley, hamlet, village, town and city", Mr Clegg continued. "I think it exercised an influence in this country during these four and a half years greater than most people realise, and I think it will be left to one of the historians of the future to assess with accuracy the value of the Home Guard. Never had the country witnessed such a magnificent response as there was to the call in April 1940. Never have so many persons been prepared to do so much with so little. Never have so many people been prepared to do a hard day's work and a hard night's work on top of it week after week, year after year. And there was no question of payment."

Never in its history had the country got such a vital protection against danger with so little expenditure of money as was put into the Home Guard. Yet there was a great expenditure of something else –time, enthusiasm, keenness, energy and loyalty – on part of the men who formed the Home Guard.

Mr Clegg praised the local link in the national organisation. The Earby Company, he said, had pulled its weight right to the end. In giving thanks to the local Home Guard they should remember that its success as an organisation was largely due to good will and practical help it received from the people of the district.

Speaking in support of the motion Mr N Carradice said although the Home Guard had no equipment in the early days they were prepared to face enemy hordes which had over-run Europe. He thought tribute was also due to the wives for the willing way in which they had done extra work during the time their husbands were on Home Guard duty. He hoped the spirit of comradeship shown in the Home Guard would go on in the future and that these men would pull together for the benefit of Earby.

Mr R S Shaw JP added tribute to Mr Clegg (Earby's first Home Guard Company Commander) and Mr J W Hartley mentioned the help given by the WVE. Others who supported the motion were Messrs W H Bishop (Vice Chairman), H Cross JP, W Firth and A Bond.

EDLHS would like to hear from anyone who could give us names of any men who were in the local Home Guard.

ITEMS NO LONGER IN FASHION?!

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FOR WORKS USE	CUST'S ENTRY		S.	D.
		23 MAY 1964		
		Dusters		
		Handkerchiefs		
		Collars (soft or semi-stiff)		
		Fronts		
		Serviettes		
		Tea Towels		
		Pillow Cases		
		Towels (Hand or Turkish)		
		Aprons Bolsters		
		Socks, pair Traycloths		
		Roller Towels Knickers		
		Underpants Vests		
		Pyjama Jackets		
		" Trousers		
	<i>2</i>	Tablecloths from		<i>1 10</i>
		Combinations		
		Nightdresses		
		Sheets		
		Sleeveless Overalls		
		Shirts (Tunic)		
		Flannelette Sheets		
		Shirts (Collar attached)		
		Overall Jackets		
		" Trousers		
		Shop Jackets (Short)		
		Blouses from		
		Silk Shirts		
		Bed Ticks and Covers		
		Bedspreads (print)		
		Coat Overall (long col.)		
		" " (long white)		
		Blankets		
		Boiler Suits		
		Counterpanes (heavy)		
		Padded Quilts from		
		Curtains According		
		Frocks to work		
		Dress Collars		
		" Shirts (Starched)		
		" " (Negligee)		
		" " (Collar att.)		

SUCCESSFUL BOOK LAUNCH

The Society launched its latest publication “Earby Cricket Club -Playing the Game “ in September. The event was hosted by Earby Cricket Club and proved to be a good success. Copies of the book are available from the Society at a price of £10.



CHRISTMAS AT THE WESLEYAN DAY & SUNDAY SCHOOLS & THE BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL 1876

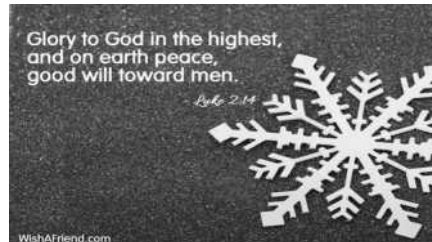
The Christmas arrangements were of a very interesting and successful character...In the afternoon the usual Christmas party was held, and a very numerous company, including many aged and poor people, who had been gratuitously furnished with tickets by a kind friend, sat down to enjoy the good things provided. At six o'clock in the evening a public meeting was held, the opening hymn being “While shepherds watched their flocks by night”, which was very heartily sung by the choir and congregation. Mr T Smith offered a very earnest and appropriate prayer and the meeting was presided over by Mr John Taylor. Addresses were given by Mr James Brown on “The Advent of Christ”; by Mr E Lund on “the ignorance and superstition of the past locally considered and the rise and progress of Methodism in Earby”. Mr Tasker gave some excellent advice to young people; Mr Leach’s theme being “The spirit of emulation” and Mr J Duxbury the esteemed superintendent of the Sunday School, spoke of the importance of earnest personal effort in God’s cause.

The musical part of the programme consisted of songs by Misses L Hartley, A Hartley, E Speak, A Laycock and H Conyngill. Misses J Sephton and A Turner gave a duet “Over the mountains” and there were hymns and anthems by the choir. Recitations and dialogues were given by many local young people...which elicited hearty applause from the large company. Hearty votes of thanks were given to Messrs John Taylor, J Dodgson and H C Smith for preparing the reciters and singers and the ladies for preparing and serving an excellent tea. The doxology having been sung and the benediction pronounced, the company dispersed.

At the Baptists on Christmas Day the annual public tea and entertainment in connection with the school was held. The chair was occupied by the Rev. E Morgan and speeches were made by Messrs John Green and Joseph Windle. Themes included that at Christmas time especially there are things that we must have and we work hard in order to attain them; whilst there are other things we would like but as they are not indispensably necessary and our means being limited we have to deny ourselves of these things. The need for strength of character was emphasised. Hard work was another theme explored by the speakers. Mr Morgan read some humorous Lancashire riddles and proverbs.

The choir sang with great effect several religious pieces with the congregation joining in "While shepherds". Several recitations and dialogues were given by the young people in the Sunday School. Mr J Hartley junior presided at the harmonium. After the meeting there was a supper provided, at which a good number stayed and thus ended a day which is always looked forward to with pleasure by the residents of Earby.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year!



PROGRAMME

21 January 2020 Blackpool with Kath Dowthwaite

18 February 2020 AGM and Archive Night

17 March 2020 Linton Alms Houses with Jane Hilton

21 April 2020 My work as a local history detective with Steve Helliwell

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**THE SOCIETY
Meets at the
Community
Centre, New Road,
EARBY on the 3rd
Tuesday of the
month at
7.30 p.m.**

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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
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