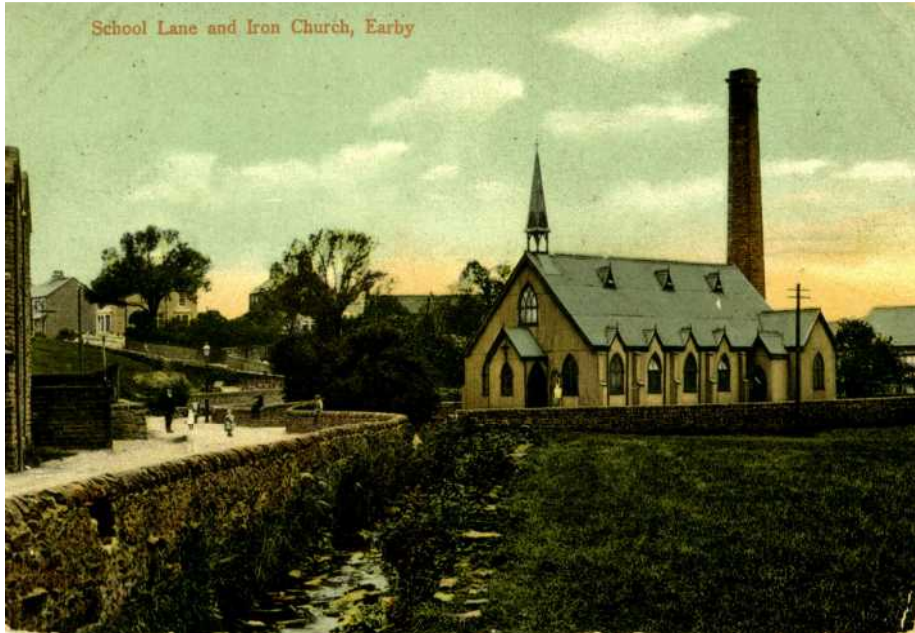


Earby Chronicles

Edition 98

Autumn 2020

www.earbyhistory.co.uk



EARBY'S IRON CHURCH

Known as the "tin tabernacle" the church was opened on 12th May 1888 by Miss Smith of Fence End. A special service was held at which the preacher was the Bishop of Penrith. It was replaced by All Saints which opened on 11th December 1909. It was dismantled in 1916

SOCIETY AIMS:

To raise awareness, foster an interest and facilitate research into the heritage of Earby and district including Thornton-in-Craven, Sough, Kelbrook, Harden and Salterforth

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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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25th ANNIVERSARY

Society History

Continued from Summer 2020

In 2005 Bev Parker led a project in co-operation with St. Mary's Church, Thornton, to restore the holy well in the churchyard. The well was covered by Henry Richardson in 1746 and was be-

ginning to show its age. It was a big project with a large budget with grant funding from The Local Heritage Initiative and included an archaeological survey led by a professional archaeologist. Many members and local Thornton parishioners took part in the project.

The society participated in local history fairs in Burnley and Skipton and there was a programme of autumn fairs, visits and annual dinners.

In 2008 we held a Family and local history event at Earby Library.

The Earby Fire Brigade held an open day in 2009 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the new fire station on Jagoe Road. The Society was invited to take part and an exhibition of some of the history of the brigade was put on.

The 8th September 2012 was a red letter day for the Society when Parish Council chairman, Chris Tennant, officially opened the Archive Room at New Road Community Centre. The room had become vacant when the LCC Youth Services were reorganised. The room had to be furnished with cupboards, filing cabinets and book shelves so that we could bring the scattered archives into one central place.

Over the previous six months a small group of members had transferred all our archives and artefacts into the new storage and systematically itemised and re-catalogued the collection.

The band of budding archivists was Margaret Greenwood, Wendy Faulkner, Margaret Brown, Bob Abel with assistance from Helen Horner.

The archives will fulfil two purposes, firstly as a local history research

resource and secondly as a lasting legacy to future generations of Earbyers. The archives will not be for the exclusive use of members but for the general public and local schools to utilise.

Under normal circumstances we open to the public on Friday mornings or by appointment.

The following year, 2013, the Society hosted an open day and exhibition about the Ranch (Northolme Estate) in the Northolme Community centre. It was a great success attracting many visitors.

2014 was a significant year for the Society. It was the year of the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War. A grant was obtained from the National Lottery to put on events to commemorate the occasion. In collaboration with Heritage Lancashire we arranged a seminar on tracing World War I ancestors and a lecture on the resources at Lancashire Libraries for researching World War I

The main event was a weekend of exhibitions, demonstrations and performances which attracted much acclaim.



Stephanie Carter wrote the book "Earby in The First World War" as part of the project.

On the Saturday and Sunday of the event crowds came to view the exhibition and listen to Earby Brass Band playing with one piece specially composed by their musical

director Peter Young. There were re-enactments and a display of WWI weaponry and uniforms.

The following year the Society was invited by the Pendle twin town, Marl in Germany, to contribute to their WWI commemorative exhibition and we took some of our display boards over to Germany.

To be continued

MY TIME AT SALTERFORTH SCHOOL

Ken Ranson

I grew up on Northolme estate, The Ranch, so I went to Salterforth primary school, not Springfield/Alderhill. I was four when I started in 1950. It is not certain to me how I got there but feel sure that my mum would have taken me and picked me up at the end of the day.



Early memories are few and far between. The first class I went into was the nursery class with memories of afternoon naps on camp beds covered with a red blanket, and playing with beads.

Growing-up now and moved into the “middle” class.



Although only being 7/8, the middle class brought me my “first love”, Marlene Fawcett a trainee teacher fresh from college whom I fell in love with at first sight. (left) I worshipped her, I would pretend to be able not to spell words so I could go out to her at her desk and get her to spell the word in my spelling-book for me.

Miss Fawcett was a breath of fresh air I think to the school, young and energetic she formed a football and cricket team for us. (see over) We all bought a claret and blue

Burnley FC shirt and she made and sewed numbers on to them. We played against teams from Barnoldswick, Gisburn Road, St Joseph’s. When playing on the park at Salterforth we would get changed in the classroom and walk down to the park and one time, much to our con-



sternation she walked into the classroom and caught us in our under-pants.

Marlene at the time was courting with a man called Derrick Brown who was doing his National Service in the RAF. During lessons when things were quiet she could be seen writing letters to him. She would give me 6d to go down into the village to post them. Until she died recently I went to see her a few times and I would tease her by telling her I used to steam open her letters.

The hall formed the central hub around which all the classrooms were formed. School began here each morning with prayers and singing a hymn. P.E. lessons were held here and, as if by magic, at dinner times lots of trestle tables appeared. Dinners were had at these tables, I remember quite liking them. Mrs Jackman my next-door-neighbour was one of the dinner ladies so I always got a little bit extra of my favourites.

And then one day the dinner money went up to 6d a day so my mother couldn’t/wouldn’t afford them so my brother and I ended up cycling back home to The Ranch and I would most days fry us an egg. It was a family joke that we were so poor we had to share an egg, I didn’t like the yolk and being the eldest I was able to have the white which I liked.

Another use for the hall was the Harvest Festival. Everyone would bring donations which would be auctioned off to raise funds for the school. I used to sing solo at the Festivals and in 1954 I got a few of the lads together and sang Rock Around the Clock which was in vogue at the time, much to the consternation of the headmistress (an old -time teacher) we got a few encores.

One of my clearest memories and one which I still chuckle about was the time (Google tells me it was 25 February 1952) when the whole school was sat in the hall listening, yes "listening", to a commentary of the eclipse of the sun.

Christmas parties came about every year to our delight and we would always receive a small present.

The school was encircled by playgrounds, all concrete except for a grassed area next to the outdoor toilets. The outdoor toilets must have put a strain on the bladders of all youngsters of our and earlier generations. Winter time would find everyone "hanging on" for as long as they could.

Football and cricket were played on the top playground with goals delineated with coats and wickets chalked on the wall. I once hit the ball when playing cricket and it went straight down the chimney of the staff room. I can imagine the shock that the teachers got. At morning playtime we would all line up to collect our bottle of (in summer tepid) milk, most of mine went down the drain.

Out of school we would be taken on nature walks up Cross Lane and down the bridal path "Mucky Lane" to Klondyke then back to the school. At times we went on a cross country run, up the lane then into the field by the old railway bridge and back round to school. No need for risk assessments in those days, after all we were eight years old! School sports days were held on the playing field in the village when parents who were not working would come and watch. One day we were taken to the Anchor Inn and allowed to go down into the cellar to see the wonderful display of stalagmites and stalactites, something I have repeated more than once when being an adult.

There were a few shops in the village and we had our sweet shop, Mrs Bellamy's.

Memories of gob stoppers, aniseed balls, Sherbet Dips, Love Hearts (my first girlfriend, Sandra Hewitt, would receive the special ones).

We would often walk to school in summer until the time my younger brother Leslie started at the school, then he and I would go to school on our bikes. Later on there was a bus service which came over the Ranch.

In autumn I would go rose hipping which all schools collected which was made into Rose hip syrup. We were paid 3d per lb so could make quite a lot of money if we wanted to.



Salterforth School 1952

Other teachers I can vaguely remember are Mrs King and Miss Petty.

Now in the top class and within two years I was the eldest in the school with my birthday being 15th September and 31st August being the cut-off date for moving up classes I was a year older than a lot of the other children. Miss Longbottom was the teacher, I'm sure you can imagine the fun ten-year-olds had with her name. She was one of the old style school teachers and a very talented musician and artist. A spinster, as they had to be in those days, she always looked old to us, she left when aged early 50's, possibly through ill-health. Mr Edmondson took over from her.

My most treasured memory of the top class was the large glass-fronted bookcase which was the beginning of my love of reading and history. If we had been good we were allowed to chose a book from the bookcase, I always chose a history book. Romulus and Remus, The Wooden Horse of Troy, The Romans, Admiral Nelson et al.

My very enjoyable days at Salterforth school came to an end when I took my 11 plus and passed to go to Grammar school.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Primary School Report

Salterforth School Junior Mixed & Infant Dept.
 Report for year ended July 1957
 Name Kenneth Carson Class 1

Parents are requested to examine the Report carefully so that the Children may be encouraged to take interest in their work at School.

SUBJECT	GRADE	REMARKS
Religious Knowledge	B	
Reading	A	
Writing	B	This is a good all round result by Kenneth
English Composition	B	
Language Comprehension	A	He should do well at his next school.
Spelling	A	
Arithmetic	A	
Nature Study	B	
History		
Geography		
Art	B	
Craft		
Needlework		
Music		
Physical Education	A	Very good at sport
Attendances possible		Times absent

General Remarks: *conduct: Very Good.*

Class Teacher: *G.B. Edmondson*
 Master Head Mistress
 Parent's Signature

Explanation of Marks: A—Excellent; B—Very Good; C—Good; D—Fairly Good; E—Fair; F—Bad or Fail.

BAPTIST CHURCH ANNIVERSARY – EARLY DAYS REVIEWED

(Barnoldswick and Earby Times 2 April 1943)

Preaching at the 125th anniversary of the Earby Baptist movement on Sunday last, the Rev. F W Trout recalled that the present church was built 82 years ago, and stands today as a tribute to the foresight and the sense of beauty and fitness of those who designed and built it “as a fitting house of God and place of worship”.

A century and a quarter ago Earby Baptists, with no worshipping place of their own, were compelled to travel as far as Barnoldswick, with a few others who trudged over to Cowling Hill to find a Baptist church. In 1821 the first chapel was built in Chapel Square, Red Lion Street, but this evoked the disapprobation of their fellow worshippers in Barnoldswick. In a letter dismissing them for the purpose of forming their own church in Earby, the communication said “It gives us great pain that in opposition to all our advice you have forcibly left us as a church, yet we exercise forbearance and leave you to the disposal of Him who does all things well”.

After the first struggling years when the Baptist cause in Earby was upheld by a small but loyal band of supporters, the church began to exercise a growing influence upon the people in the town, and at the end of the last century and the beginning of the present, the building was crowded to the doors and there was a waiting list for sittings in the church.

These early Christian worshippers, said the preacher, had a deep hold on the things that are eternal and abiding in the Christian church and fellowship. They worked with zeal and enthusiasm and religion took first place in their lives. Reviewing the position today, the Rev. Trout said that in these days of stress it was deplorable that so many had ceased to realise their need of God. His house was deserted by the vast majority of the people in our land, who have little or no use for the Christian way of life. His own church, which would hold 500 people, was happy to get a congregation of 80 to 100. It was only

possible for the church to restore its former glory by going out into new adventures of faith and courage...

(I wonder what the Rev. Trout would have to say today? Editor)

KELBROOK YOUNG FARMERS



Bottom Newfield Grange 1956 (Editor in centre with badge on blazer!)

COCK-FIGHTING

The Editor

Many customs and practices in our past, long consigned to history by legislation, have recently been the subject of fierce debate. Newspaper reports of one particularly horrific blood-sport, cock-fighting, although banned by law, were a fairly regular feature in the 1870s and 1880s in local and regional newspapers.

Cock-fighting, long prohibited and made illegal in England and Wales with the 1835 Cruelty to Animals Act and in Scotland in 1895, is a centuries old blood sport in which two or more specially bred birds, whose legs are fitted with metal spurs with a sharp spike, are placed in a pit to fight, for the primary purpose of gambling and entertainment.

The sport originated in India, spreading to Persia and into Greece. It is said it was introduced into Britain by the Romans and was at one time the sport of kings - Henry VIII had his own cock pit in Whitehall. In cock-fighting a "main" means an encounter between an agreed number of birds and victory goes to the side with the most winners. One of the most famous "mains" was fought in 1830 at Lincoln between birds owned by the Earl of Derby and those of Mr Joseph Gulliver, a notable breeder of game-cocks. It was a main of seven birds a side and the stakes were 5,000 guineas for the main and 1,000 for each match. Lord Derby's entries won only two of the seven matches.

Some may recall hearing of the lawless days when cock-fighting was prevalent in Wycoller and of the traditions associated with the cock-fighting Cunliffe Squires. The last of the Cunliffes, Henry Owen Cunliffe, is remembered as a great sportsman, gambler and cock-fighting enthusiast, and many a "main" was fought in the cock-pit behind Wycoller Hall when large sums of money were wagered. The story goes that so great was his love for the sport that when he was dying he ordered his servants to bring his best game-cocks into his bed chamber. So that he could watch the combat, mirrors were arranged

about his bed.

L E Smith wrote of bull baiting in a chapter "From Medieval Times to the time of the Factory System" in his "History of Earby" (1930). The bull ring was at the top of Water Street. He also stated that "Another popular form of amusement was cock-fighting. A curious reminder of this may be seen in the fact that in the agreement every tenant of Park Side Farm has to sign a clause in which he binds himself to rear and train at least one fighting cock per annum".

Numerous reports in Yorkshire and Lancashire newspapers in the mid to late 19th century record incidents of the sport. Newspapers such as the St. James Gazette London, The Yorkshire Gazette, Heywood Advertiser and Congleton and Macclesfield Mercury recorded that in February 1885 a party of 50 men from Blackburn arrived at Newsholme station on the Chatburn to Hellifield railway. They were joined by a similar party "from the district of Colne". They proceeded to a railway bridge a short distance from the station. They had with them bags containing game-cocks and it was reported that "a ring was formed and cock-fighting proceeded undisturbed for about two hours under the bridge. After several fowls had been killed, the party proceeded to the station and left by train. It is stated that the Clitheroe police had obtained information that a fight was to take place in the district (*meetings were arranged secretly*), and were looking out for the men in the Lancashire portion of the district. The promoters of the expedition, however, appear to have been aware of this, and changed their plans, crossing the county border into Yorkshire."

The Preston Record of 8th April 1885 also reported on what it called an "Important Cock-fighting Case", which took place on 10th March at Nappa. The case was heard at The Bolton-by-Bowland police court. Thirteen men from Blackburn, Skipton, Colne, Foulridge, Burnley, Kelbrook and Newsholme were all named. They included William Whittaker, inn-keeper Stone Trough Inn, Kelbrook. The Mayor of Preston prosecuted on behalf of the RSPCA and the police. The incident had taken place at Nappa Farm, "a secluded spot" and the birds "were trimmed and spurred having steel spurs on about two inches long". Mr Forshaw, the Mayor, said that his objective was "to prevent

the recurrence of such brutalising sport". He did not wish to ask the magistrates to send the men to prison if they pleaded guilty but to inflict a nominal penalty. After much deliberation the magistrates agreed that the men had indeed faced prison but decided "to deal leniently with them and fine them each 10s and costs or one month's imprisonment". The report concluded "The amount of fine and costs for each case amounted to about £2. The police produced three dead cocks and several baskets, hampers and bags which they seized at the scene of the fight when the men ran away."

In July 1899 a cocking main took place on a moor between Hebden Bridge and Todmorden. The birds belonged to parties from Rochdale and Huddersfield representing Lancashire and Yorkshire and £50 was the stake. About 40 people witnessed the battle and it went unnoticed by the police. It was reported that "immediately the birds were set the Rochdale representative struck its spurs into its opponent and blinded it and in three minutes had it killed. The battle was fierce while it lasted".

In June 1930 the Yorkshire Post reported that "Yorkshire appears to be threatened with a cock-fighting "main" on a grand scale. It is of course being planned with the greatest secrecy". An advertisement had been placed in the paper by the RSPCA offering £100 reward for information that would lead to the conviction of any person organising or aiding and abetting a cock-fight. In the article famous fights were recalled but it was stated that in recent years, due to the vigilance of the RSPCA and the police cock-fighting had been reduced to a minimum. In July 1932, however, a vivid description of cock-fighting in the Yorkshire Dales by a special correspondent was printed in the Leeds Mercury. It does not make for easy reading.

In July 1946 the attention of the Home Secretary was drawn to a large increase in cock-fighting and increased efforts were made to impose the ban on the cruel sport.

According to RSPCA reports the abhorrent and cruel activity of cock-fighting is still taking place today. In 2017 the RSPCA reported cock fighting was at a five year high. 45 cases had been recorded in 2012

and 60 in 2016. In December 2017 a cock-fighting gang was smashed in Ilford. Six people were banned from keeping birds for life, given community orders and had to pay large costs. One man was given a suspended jail sentence and ordered to pay £12,000 costs. The number of convictions has declined in recent years.

An inn in Burnley the Fighting Cocks, still bears the name of this ancient sport. There is also The Gamecock at Austwick.



A 19th CENTURY TAILOR'S WORKBOOK (Part 1)

JOHN SPENCER OF KELBROOK

(Workbook donated to EDLHS by Susan Hyde née Spencer)

John Spencer was born in Gargrave on 23rd October 1800 to parents Peter and Ellen née Mayson, and was baptised on 4th October 1801 at Marton. His father Peter and his uncle George were tailors and John and his brother Peter followed in the family tradition. On 1st May 1823 he married Agnes Hawkswell from Skipton at Gargrave. The couple had 10 children and had moved to Dotcliffe in Kelbrook in the late 1820s, where on the 1841 and 1851 census John's occupation is recorded as a tailor. In 1841 Isaac, Ellin, Agnes, George, Mary, Anne and John were living with their parents but the 1851 census shows five of the children Ellin, Agnes, Mary, Anne and George were living in Ingrow, Keighley and working as power loom weavers and a spinner in a factory. In 1847 daughter Agnes had an illegitimate son, Edwin, who was legally adopted by his grand-parents.

By the time of the 1861 census John and Agnes Spencer had moved to Woodside, Hainworth with Ingrow, Keighley. John was now a milk and coal dealer. Eldest son Isaac was married with four children, liv-

ing as a farmer in Oxenhope. In later years he moved to Hainworth with Ingrow and worked as a stone quarryman. The other children were employed in the worsted industry. John Spencer's wife Agnes died in 1862 and the 1871 census shows him living with his daughter Ann and husband Jacob Hodgson in Hainworth Lane, Ingrow, once again being described as a tailor. He died aged 78 in April 1879 and is buried at St. John's church Ingrow and Hainworth.

Susan Hyde's (née Spencer) great great great grand-father was John Spencer who with his brother Peter were the tailors in Kelbrook in the middle of the 19th century. Her great great grandfather was Isaac Spencer. Susan has given a copy of John's work book to the Society.

From the pages of the workbook we can get glimpses of life in the parish of Thornton-in-Craven, of which Kelbrook was a part in the middle of the 19th century. Some of John's customers, hand loom worsted weavers, cotton weavers and farmers included Thomas Duckworth of Arden (Harden), William Cowgill, Thomas Rediough, John Hawdersley (Aldersley), Henry Green, cotton weaver, of Earby, James and John Waterworth, Anah Holmes, John and William Smith of Lothersdale, James Baila (Bailey), Richard Hartley known as Dick-a-Bins and others. Orders undertaken are itemised and the prices recorded. Most accounts were not settled in full, but paid in instalments, the amount "being left to pay" being recorded in the workbook.

As a tailor, the majority of John's work was making, repairing or altering men's clothing. Clothes were meant to last, with many entries for "mending" – "breeches mending", "cloas mending", "trowsers mending", "coat mending". Cost of thread and buttons were itemised separately and he made jackets, "waystcoats", "trowsers", coats, "breeches", and a suit which cost 5s 8d. Watch pockets at 2d or 3d and "waystcoat" pockets were a popular request to be made. A "fushton waystcoat" cost 2s and 2d, and two pairs of "drawers" 2s and 4d.

The only women's item mentioned was a pair of "stays" for Henry Green's daughter which cost 9d.

The following pages from the workbook illustrate John Spencer's meticulous recordings.—Editor

the 1846

October 21 John Waterworth	
lin 4 thred 4	0..0..8
Trowsers making	0..2..8
Waistcoat making	0..2..6
November 5 your Coat	
Mending left to mary x x 0 x 0 x 2 x	
Thomas Breeches mending	
Mending	0..1..4
December 2 thred lin	0..0..3
Joseph fustoon waistcoat	0..2..2
March 21 1847	
Your Breeches making	0..2..4
Thomas Breeches making	0..2..9
Trowsers mending	0..0..5
Thomas Breeches mending	0..0..7
Joseph Breeches mending	0..0..7
Spade	0..0..10
your Jacket making	0..3..6
	<hr/> 19..0..9
mill 4 1	<hr/> 4..1
1848 the	<hr/> 1..3..9
Desemb 18 Resaved	0..2..0
Shuttle	0..1..0
x 8 + march 5	<hr/> 0..7..7

the 1844

Earby

January 5 Henry Green To
 Your Son Jacket and Trowsers
 your ouldest son Jacket and waistcoa
 your next son waistcoat and
 your son Jacket waistcoa and
 your son Jacket and Trowsers
 your self waistcoat Making
 your 2 Sons Sleeved waistcoats
 your youngest son Jacket and
 February 11 1845 pockets & fasim 7 your
 your Waistcoat sleeving & Lining
 Stephen Cloth waistcoat Making
 your ouldest son Trowsers Making
 your youngest son Trowsers
 your next son suit suit of
 Waistcoat Back Bottom
 May 30 1845

the 1845

August 24 Henry Green
 16 Buttons 4 Cotton 5 Lin 5
 2 Jackets and one Pair of Trowsers
 Silk tape thred 4 your Trowsers
 your Oldest son Trowsers
 your younger son Trowsers

KELBROOK MILL (DOTCLIFFE) PART 2 –EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Stephanie Carter

In August 1906 Dotcliffe Mill and its contents were sold by auction.

John Spencer	L S D
Making	0..3..4
Trowsers Making	0..7..0
Trowsers Making	0..3..8-
Trowsers Making	0..5..6
Making	0..3..6-
	0..2..6
Making	0..5..0
Trowsers Making	0..3..6-
Trowsers Making 2.6	0..3..1
	0..1..3
	0..2..0
	0..2..6-
Making	0..1..6
Shoes Making	0..5..6-
Twist	0 0 8
Patented John Spencer	<u>2..10..6</u>
John Spencer	L S D
Washers 5 thred 2	0..1..8
Making	0..5..6
Making 3..2	0..3..6
Making 2..6	0..2..6
Making 2 4	0..2..4

SALE OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD MILL, COTTAGES, AND FARMS, SITUATE AT KELBROOK, IN THE WEST RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK.

MESSRS. MATTHEW WATSON & LAND-
LESS will offer for SALE BY AUCTION,
at the Crown Hotel, Colne, on Wednesday, the
22nd day of August, 1906, at four o'clock in
the afternoon precisely, in the following or
such others lots as may be determined at the
time of Sale, and subject to the Conditions
of Sale of the Burnley District Incorporated
Law Society, and to such special conditions as
may then be produced, the following VALU-
ABLE PROPERTY, namely:—

Lot 1.—The VALUABLE FREEHOLD MILL
and PREMISES, known as DOTCLIFFE MILL,
Kelbrook, lately used as a Dyeworks, and
occupied by Messrs. N. Smallpage and Sons,
with the Engine House, Dynamo House, Boiler
House, Chimney, Turbine House, Dye House,
Size House, Warehouses, WEAVING SHED,
with capacity for about 220 looms; Store
Rooms, Offices, and other Buildings. Also the
Valuable Reservoir and Water Rights and
privileges thereto belonging and the Four Old
Cottages, situate in Dotcliffe-road, adjoining.

AND also the FIXED MACHINERY, con-
sisting shortly of 2 Steam Boilers, Beam
Engine, with cylinder, 2ft. dia., stroke 4ft.
6in.; Electric Light Installation, for about 260
lights, with dynamo, lamps, switches, and
switch-boards complete, by Spagnoletti and
Crookes; Twenty specified horse-power Vortex
Turbine, by Gilkes; 20in. Supply Pipe from
reservoir, 4-Storey Cage Hoist, and a large
quantity of Shafting, Gas, Steam, and Water
Piping.

The new owner was John James (JJ) Duckworth and in 1912 he enlarged the shed to hold over 500 looms. The date over the mill entrance was prominent on the photograph taken in 1996.

He introduced the manufacture of high-class goods, and the business



became very prosperous. JJ Duckworth was born in Barrowford in 1880, where his father Amos was a blacksmith. Starting his working life about 1892, he gained experience with various Nelson textile firms. Showing great initiative, at the age of 21 he started in business on his own account at Great Holme Mill in Colne, prior to purchasing Dotcliffe Mill in Kelbrook. He found that the mill, being unused for several years, was in a derelict state and driven by a water wheel. He installed a steam engine and in 1912 built an extension to accommodate sheeting looms. He and his growing family lived in Dotcliffe and the 1911 census describes him as a cotton mill weaving manager, aged 30, living with wife Mary Ann and two young daughters, Thyra and Annie. He went on to take over Pendle Street Mill and in 1921 built a new electrically driven mill known as Reedyford Mill. He became chairman and managing director of three Nelson textile manufacturing firms.

In 1916 the family moved to Elslack Grange and started to develop the 2,000 acre Elslack Estate. In November 1956 Mr Duckworth became the recipient of one of the highest honours in the land – the Freedom of the City of London. This was bestowed in recognition of his long association with the textile section of commercial life in London and was presented to him at the Guild Hall. JJ Duckworth died on 31st December 1963 after an outstanding career.

In June 1926 Dotcliffe was one of the mills which closed for a period on account of the coal miners dispute. At the dawn of the 1930s Mr Duckworth had removed many of his looms to Nelson where he had other interests, and a new Company was formed called the Springbank Manufacturing Co. Ltd. to continue the occupation of the premises. Mr T Proctor became managing director but Mr Duckworth was still associated with the business.

TELLING LIKE IT IS

This marriage announcement appeared in the York Herald 18th July 1835

On Monday, at St Swithins, Lincoln, Mr John Burley aged 78, to a buxom young widow, named Hewitt, aged 31. After the nuptial knot had been tied the happy pair was escorted to their lodgings by four policemen amid the cheers and hisses of upwards of 400 persons.

The widow in question was Mary Hewitt and their marriage record shows they were married on 6th July 1835 and that John was a widower.

There is evidence that this was probably his third marriage.

On Friday 29th August 1845 the Lincolnshire Chronicle announced a death - *In St Swithins, Lincoln on the 21st inst., John infant son of John Burley, labourer. The father is 84 years of age.*

In 1851 John (86) and Mary (50) were living in Burleys Passage and had a 42 year old lodger Benjamin Blondell, a gardener, living with them. Perhaps there were a few tongues wagging?

John died in 1853.

There are some discrepancies in John's recorded age but it would be a remarkable coincidence if there were two John Burleys living in Lincoln with wives called Mary and with such an age difference.

SELECTED NEWSPAPER REPORTS

THORNTON-IN-CRAVEN IN THE 19TH CENTURY

1804 February Leeds intelligencer

“The Roundell Volunteers were inspected at Thornton in Craven by Lieut. Col. Orde, who was pleased to express his full approbation of the steady precision of their movements and soldier-like appearance.”

(They were part of the infantry volunteer corps of the West Riding. Their uniform was red faced with blue with silver officer's lace and white leg wear. They adopted the dark blue facings of the royal regiment without authority. In December 1803 Richard Henry Roundell was appointed captain; Joshua Windle and Robert Starkie lieutenants and Edward Wilkinson and Richard Heber ensigns.)

1814 December

On Tuesday 29th Charles Greenwood and William Spencer of Wadsworth near Heptonstall were convicted before Matthew Wilson and Richard T North in the penalty of five pounds each, for using guns for the destruction of game within the manor of Thornton in Craven belonging to Sir John L Kaye on the oath of the gamekeeper of the said manor.”

1819 April

“On Saturday night as Mr John Bracewell of Langbar near Thornton in Craven, cattle dealer, was travelling between Settle and Horton in Ribblesdale, he was stopped by two foot-pads, who knocked him down and robbed him of £240, after which they mounted his horse and rode away. We are sorry to add that the offenders have hitherto escaped detection.”

1846 September Preston Chronicle

“The neighbourhood of Thornton in Craven was thrown into consternation at the report of the self-destruction of Mr John Wilkinson, timber merchant and bobbin turner of that place. It appears that he had fallen in love with a steady young woman, housekeeper to Mrs Wilson

of Thornton Hall. Marriage had been agreed upon and a splendid breakfast had been provided for the wedding party at the hall; but through the advice of his neighbours and others he was persuaded to abscond before the time appointed for the ceremony. Mortification and disappointment ensued. However, they were soon afterwards married; but owing to the interference and intermeddling of several of his relations and neighbours, he became downcast and almost melancholy. They were not pleased with him because he had married as he had done. Early on the Monday morning he went out to catch the horse, while his wife went to obtain a few chips to kindle the fire. He made his way into the mill without her notice, and having a rope with him he with great difficulty hanged himself, though this could not have been done unless he had crouched or drooped.”

1857 February Leeds Intelligencer

“On Sunday week on the occasion of the opening of an organ in the church at Thornton in Craven, two sermons were preached by Rev. W Cartman, head master of the Grammar School Skipton. A collection was made after each sermon amounting to £32.10s. The organ is in every respect a very perfect affair and does great credit to the talent of the builder Mr Laycock of Glusburn near Keighley.”

1858 July Leeds Mercury

“At the Skipton Petty Sessions John William and Samuel Holgate, brothers of Thornton in Craven, were summoned at the instance of Mr Bairstow one of the relieving officers of the Bradford Poor Law Union, to show cause why they refused to contribute towards the support of their mother, Judith Holgate, widow, aged 80 years, who lives in the township of Manningham and earns a little money from baking oat cakes. It appears that Mrs Holgate had lived apart from her husband, who was a farmer in Thornton in Craven. He died about a year ago and under his will she became entitled to 1s 6d per week. This allowance however had been withheld from her up to the present time and the defendants had also refused to contribute anything out of their own pockets towards her maintenance. Mr Wasney, barrister at law, appeared on behalf of the defendants. The defence was that the old

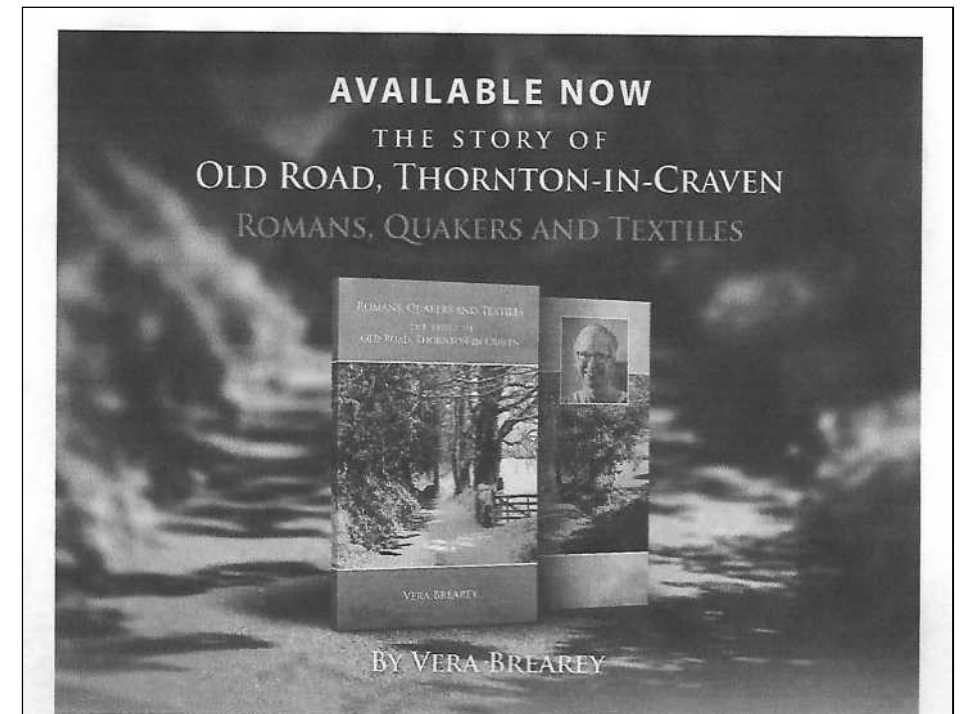
woman's sons were not liable to pay anything within the meaning of the Act of Parliament, as they had large families of their own to support and the Learned Counsel suggested that the sole object of the Bradford Board of Guardians in instituting these proceedings was to prevent Mrs Holgate from becoming chargeable to their union, she having gained a settlement in the township of Manningham. The court made an order upon the defendants for the payment of 1s 6d per week, in addition to an equal amount which she is entitled to receive under her late husband's will."

1865 May Leeds Times

"Great excitement prevailed in Thornton in Craven on Tuesday, in consequence of an announcement by the bellman that a child of five years old had strayed away from Cropton. The child was traced to Marton village and thence to Thornton, where the inhabitants formed themselves into bands of searchers for his discovery. One party, between two and three in the morning, found the lad asleep among the heather, fully 20 miles distant from his home. How the little fellow had traversed the distance without rest or food seems perfectly astonishing. He is now quite well."

1885
April

ANOTHER AGED BRADFORDIAN IS DEAD.
Mr. Thomas Wilson, of Thostle Nest, Thornton-in-Craven, died somewhat suddenly on Saturday, aged 80. By his death a familiar figure in the life of this town of a quarter of a century ago has been removed. In his earlier days he was a partner in the firm of Maud and Wilson, chemists, Sun Bridge. He was apprenticed to Dr. Maud, became his partner, and laid the foundation of the business of Maud and Wilson. About 20 years ago Mr. Wilson retired from business to reside in the house where he was born at Thornton-in-Craven. He devoted himself to the study of astronomy and other sciences, and took an interest in horticulture. Deceased was a member of the Society of Friends. During his residence at Thornton the community of Friends in the neighbourhood worshipped in his house. He was a supporter of the temperance cause and in politics a Liberal. He was secretary while in Bradford to the auxiliary of the Bible Society, the depository being situated in a shop at Sun Bridge. Mr. Wilson was one of the founders of the Friends' Provident Institution. Deceased was a widower. He leaves a son and daughter.



Stories of Old Road, Thornton-in-Craven - from the history of the road itself to stories of some of the people who lived there in the past - four generations of a Quaker family and a prominent local mill-owner

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MEMORIES OF KELBROOK 90 YEARS AGO

Part 1 of the late Kathleen Bannister's (nee Astin) Memoir

I was born in 1927 in the cottage at the top of Waterloo Road in which I now live. It is one of three, originally built in 1819 to house the families in 6 little back-to-back two roomed dwellings. Before my time a door was made in the adjoining walls and the six little cottages became three with four good sized comfortable rooms. One of the oldest rows in Kelbrook is Unity Street which still has 2 back-to-backs at the far end and the first four now are the comfortable roomy homes like ours.

The Village (before the by-pass was built)

My earliest memory is of a bus running down Main Street. At that time the road from Colne passed by the school and Methodist Chapel on the right hand side, turned down into the village, over the bridge, past the Church, down to Sough, continuing on its way to Earby and Skipton. The path (track) between Limestones and the bungalows, past the pub and Euravia was only virtually a dirt track until 1929 when the by-pass was built (I was 2 or 3 years old). The bus time-table remained on the sweet shop wall in Main Street well into my teens. The chip shop – in a wooden hut stood on the right hand side, in the croft until it was transferred to where it is now on the new main road.

Kelbrook, our lovely village

Kelbrook was very different from what it is now. Think – take away Quernmore, the original Council estates up Cob Lane and Dotcliffe, the industrial estate, Euravia, the bungalows and the modern houses which have sprung up since the end of the 2nd World War. These have taken the place of fields and meadows, amongst which our village nestled peacefully, and we children played and explored safely.

What was the village like?

We all lived in the unadorned old cottages or in the half dozen or so farms, or in the streets of 4 roomed homes built to house the mill workers who came from away when the mill at the top of Dotcliffe was established in the early 19th century.

There were only two cars, the mill manager and Miss Naylor our headmistress who had a little Austin 7. Except for the odd horse and cart, the roads were empty. There was no traffic noise but in the background we could hear the slight hum from the mill's weaving shed, coupled with the sight of the mill

chimney puffing out its smoke all day long (Sadly the mill burnt down in 1959).

Occupations

I don't think there was much unemployment in Kelbrook. People were either farmers or mill workers and we had at least 15 shops: a Co-op, a butcher, cobbler, greengrocer, chip shop, and five sweets and general stores and a newsagent. Our Post Office was next to the present Village Hall. We also had builders (the Forts and the Wormwells), also joiners (the Berry family) whose ancestors had built all the streets of mill houses a generation and more before. The high quality of their work has stood the test of time.

This sounds like a prosperous, well-to-do place, but actually money was hard to come by, wages were low, and hours were long – and life for everyone was a struggle. We children were lucky if we had a penny to spend on Saturdays, but it didn't matter because everybody was the same and that was life: we knew no different.

Actually most people worked in the mill. At 6.10am the whole village resounded to the clatter of clogs (everybody wore them) to start the day's work from 6.30am until 5.30pm, but on Saturdays the mill buzzer went off at 11 o'clock and it was home for the weekend. Some 15 years later my London friend wanted to know where the horses were going so early in the morning! I said "Go and look through the window."

The school leaving age was 13 and many boys and girls worked in the mill. Lots of women were weavers and weaving was a very undervalued skill and should be recognised as a craft. The weekly pay for running 4 looms was one guinea (£1.1s). My Dad was a clothlooker and book-keeper. In 1959 the mill burnt down and so ended 150 years of textile manufacturing in Kelbrook.

Home Life

In our 4-roomed cottage lived Mother, Dad, Kathleen (born 1929), Dorothy (born 1931), Elizabeth (born 1934) and surprise surprise Terry (born 1943). We all fitted in very happily and cosily. Our lifestyle

was typical of everyone else in Kelbrook. Everybody lived in the back kitchen (it was the only warm place in the house) and the front room was kept for Sundays and special dos.

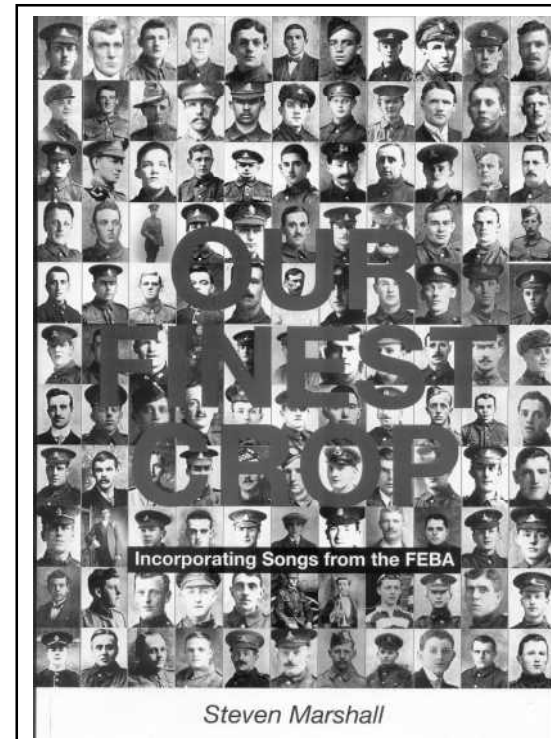
The dominant and life-giving feature in the kitchen was the big black range, the only source of heat in the house. The coal fire in the centre fed the side oven on the right and the hot water boiler on the left. The kettle was always on the fire (along with pans) etc and the cooking and baking all done in the oven. Mother spent every Wednesday making the bread, scones, biscuits etc. for the entire week, and the tasty meat and potato pie, ready for when we got home from school was memorable.

As we only had one cold tap over the sink in the corner, we got washed in a bowl and the kettle and the side boiler provided the hot water. Two years ago my nephew Nick and Charlotte his wife came to visit me. She had lived in London all her life and was interested in our history in Kelbrook. Quietly looking round she suddenly said “Where was the bathroom?” Good question! Scarcely anyone had a bathroom! Dear me! No – Friday night was bath night and out from under the stairs came the long, tin bath, placed in front of the blazing fire and filled from the boiler. As I was the eldest I got in first – lovely.

Monday was washing day – this time out came the dolly tub, the posser and the brushes and the mangle with the huge wooden rollers, and the big iron winding wheel was opened up. This served as a side table for the rest of the week – quite ingenious, but buttons would fly off if you weren’t careful (Mother cross). The washing dried outside of course, but if it was necessary the rack (a framework of wooden bars fixed to the kitchen ceiling) was needed. It was always full either drying or airing our clothes. The trusty side boiler supplied all our hot water needs.

NEW BOOK “FINEST CROP”, STEVE MARSHALL

Our Finest Crop has been researched and written by member Steve Marshall as a tribute not only to those from our area who lost their



lives in the Great War but also to all those men and women who have experienced the horror of battle.

Steve knows full well that experience having been a professional soldier who throughout his military career was directly involved in active service in hostile operational theatres .

The book tells the human story of those local casualties listed on our war memorial and has drawn on many sources for information and inspiration.

However this book has a broader scope in that it not only gives a potted history of the war in time lines but also incorporates Steve’s own poignant verses of war poetry.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following for sponsoring the publication allowing us to sell the book at a very reasonable price.

St James Place Wealth Management in association with Eccles / Greenwood Partnership, Earby Town Council, Coniston Estate Country Hotel and Spa, Mark Nevison mobile guitar tutor, Cottages.com and Earby Community Association.

Copies are obtainable from the Society costing £10 plus £4-00 post and packaging if you require but local deliveries can be made COD.

The Corona virus pandemic has prevented us holding a formal launch event but you can contact info@earbyhistory.co.uk or 01282 812599 to order your copy.

THE SOCIETY

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

£10.00

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PROGRAMME FOR NEXT QUARTER

Due to the continued restrictions due to Covid 19 and the continued closure of the Community Centre, we have decided to cancel all planned talks and events until January 2021 at the earliest. Please accept our apologies.

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£2-50

Free to members of the Society