

Transcripts of old news articles

From the

Craven Herald & Pioneer

The Society would like to thank Ian Lockwood, the Editor of the Craven Herald for permission to reproduce these articles.

The Following articles were transcribed by Bob Abel and John Turner.

Some are from a scrap book of John Hartley's articles loaned by

Alva Wilkinson, niece of John Hartley.

Other articles will be added as and when they come available

Last updated 31 August 2009.

New Road School

At the Competitive Industrial Exhibition just concluded at Edinburgh, scholars of Earby New Road School have carried off 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for needlework (girls under nine years old) in classes open to the whole of the U.K. In addition they have gained 2nd prize for freehand drawing and 3rd prize for penmanship together with other prizes and 15 certificates of commendation. The headmaster, Mr.S.V.Heap, has been successful in carrying off a silver medal in the photographic section open to all comers.

The Craven Herald October 26th, 1906

Village Sketches: IX

To complete the present review of the musical development of our village some reference is due to the vocal attainments of the community.

Vocal music in village life has been mainly identified with the places of worship, which have been not only centres for the proclamation of Christian truth, but of social fellowship and musical culture, and in this respect they have made a fine contribution to the progress and refinement of the Commonwealth.

In the earliest days of our local church life the musical portion of the services consisted in the rendering of "Psalm Tunes" which were composed for the hymns in use, chiefly those of Watts, Cowper and the Wesleys. Popular airs were sometimes adapted, as for instance the air for the ballad "Drink to me only with thine eyes," was set to "There is a land of pure delight" in "Wesley's Hymns." Manuscript tunes were much in use, and the little chapels had their own compilations, which often included productions by local musicians. The choir was a very elastic organisation, and was chiefly in evidence on special occasions, being generally enlarged by the inclusion of friends from other places. Choirmasters seem to be quite a modern innovation, and the chief person in the choir was formerly known as the "leading singer." Fifty to eighty years ago one of the best known men of this type in the district was

John Green

He was born at Giggleswick in the second decade of the last century, and as a boy he was a chorister in the Giggleswick church. He then acquired an elementary knowledge of music which proved very useful in after years. The family removed to Gargrave, and there John Green became the leading singer at the Methodist Chapel. He also officiated in a similar capacity at Broughton Church.

He married Ann Burrow, a member of a well known Gargrave family, and in the fifties they came to reside at Earby, bringing with them a family to obtain employment at the new cotton mill.

The family became strongly attached to the old Methodist Chapel and Sunday School, and the father for a considerable period filled his usual role as "leading singer." Several members of the family were musical and on one occasion, at a "charity" more than sixty years ago (so the writer was informed by an old lady who as a girl walked to the services from White Moor), a very pleasing sensation was caused by the sweet rendering of the solo "There is a stream whose gentle flow" in the popular anthem "God is the refuge of his Saints," by

Elizabeth Green

In the "Penny Reading" entertainments of that period, she was much in evidence and she was for those days, a young woman of exceptional culture.

A Remarkable Couple - John and Mary Wilkinson

occupied the seats of the mighty in the new Wesleyan Chapel fifty and sixty years ago. John eventually became the organist and his wife the "leading singer," and there was no gainsaying her authority. Oratorio singing became popular at that time, and they both could sing solo parts with credit. They were very much devoted to the chapel and the choir, and John must have spent hundreds of hours in copying manuscript tunes and anthems.

These good people had no children, and their musical mantle may be said to have fallen upon their nephew,

Mr Hugh Currer Smith

who succeeded Mr. Wilkinson as organist and choirmaster, which position he held for over twenty-five years. Forty years ago. The musical competitions local musical circles than "Hugh Currer," as he was familiarly called, and his interests extended far beyond the denomination with which he was identified. He promoted concert parties which visited the neighbouring towns and villages, which included an annual visit to the Skipton Temperance Hall. Perhaps the most signal service he rendered in this capacity was the assistance he gave to the annual concert for Leeds Infirmary which was held in the Village Institute, West Marton, for a score of years. At the Victoria Institute, Mr. Smith was mainly instrumental in organising the annual concerts which were a special feature of our village life about forty years ago. The musical competitions which were held at the institute, and which attracted the best singers from East Lancashire, were mainly due to his musical enthusiasm and organising ability. Of the

Singers Who Belonged to that Period

and who won deserved popularity in the district, one can recall the names of Miss E.A. Wilkinson, Miss Isabella Sephton, Miss Annie Turner, Miss Tomlinson, Mr. Edmondson Watson, Mr.W. Waddington, Mr Harry Kay, Mr.J.R. Hartley and Mr. Joseph Hartley.

There were several musical families in the village at that time, and four brothers of the Kay family were all bass singers in the Wesleyan choir.

Mr Harry Kay

went to reside at Skipton, and he is especially remembered as the conductor of the singing of the United Sunday Schools at the Whitsuntide demonstrations in Caroline Square, a service which he rendered for many years.

Mr William Pawson

was a most useful man in training young children, and he rendered invaluable service to the old Temperance Society and Band of Hope, and the Wesleyan Sunday School. His son Horace has derived the musical instinct from him, and for many years now he has been a popular bass singer in the Wesleyan choir and in local musical circles. Reverting again to the Baptist choir, there are some musical families which are well deserving of honourable mention for their vocal talent. In addition to some, Abe Turner and Hartley Wilkinson, previously referred to,

Betty Greenwood

was remarkable. She was known to everybody as "Betty Green," and for two generations no oratorio choir would be complete without her inclusion.

She had a strong contralto voice, and imparted into her singing an enthusiastic vigour which made it a joy to listen and behold. She revelled in the singing of "The Messiah," and she seemed to know every note in her part. Music apart, she was an original character, very shrewd and witty and used to express herself in the "pure" Earby dialect with a rather drawling intonation. When she was well past the allotted span of life she sallied forth every morning for a walk through the village, and engaged in hearty conversation with anyone so inclined. As long as her husband, Charles Greenwood, lived, they walked out together, but one usually a little in advance of the other.

They had two daughters, Alice and Polly, who were much in request thirty years ago or more , for singing, and their duet singing was always a pleasing performance. Another daughter, Maggie, was a noted elocutionist.

The Baptist Choir

used to be exceptionally strong in the bass section, and I remember Thomas Smith used to be a fine soloist. In this connection Virgil Crowther is deserving of special mention, and he is undoubtedly the best bass singer Earby has produced. He carried off the premier honours at several musical festivals about a dozen years ago. He was particularly effective in "The Creation" performances and in music requiring a fierce dramatic interpretation. Mr.Crowther removed to Nelson some years ago.

It would be fitting to conclude these musical sketches by a more extended reference to that remarkable musical character who is still with us,

Mr Joseph Foulds

If any man is the embodiment of the musical spirit it is he, for it pulsates through every fibre of his frame.

He was born in Burnley Lane, and later lived in Nelson as a boy. While at the latter place he was in the choir at a Wesleyan Mission Chapel and occasionally played the harmonium. He remembers with gratitude the kindly interest of the town missionary, Mr. Quinney.

When he was 16 years old the family moved to the Duckpond Farm above Barnoldswick. He attached himself to the Wesleyan School, and before he had been there long he was asked to play the school organ. Mr. William Bracewell was the superintendent of the school and he manifested a real friendly interest towards him. Having to pass "Newfield Edge" on the way home to the moorland farm, Mr. Bracewell occasionally invited him in to play and sing for the family. Ever since, there has been a musical relationship between Miss Ada (now Mrs. Joseph Slater) and himself, and whenever he wanted any assistance or special effort, Mrs. Slater would always bring a strong contingent from Barnoldswick.

While at Barnoldswick he was strongly attracted to the Wesleyan Temperance Band and the effect of that association with the temperance people has been very special to him.

The "New Ship" people (Independent Methodists) also asked him to help them with their school entertainments, which help he gladly gave.

Before he was 20 years old, the family moved again, this time to Black Lane Ends and Joseph was put in charge of the harmonium.

When the new chapel was opened by Mr. Peter Mackenzie he (Mr. Foulds) played the harmonium, and once he was rather late in starting the tune but "Peter" wouldn't wait, and started the tune himself, "right on pitch."

A few years later Mr. Foulds came to live at Kelbrook, and was a tackler at Smallpage's Sough Bridge Mill.

He was asked to train the choir at the United Methodist Church, and when he was 23 years old he conducted a performance of "The Messiah" in the old United Methodist Chapel. He got across with some of the old singers at the practices because "they worn't baan to be talked to wi' a bit o'a lad," but he stuck to his guns and they had a fine time when it came off. There was a lack of accommodation in the choir pews, so the choir occupied the seats of the congregation, and they used a harmonium instead of the organ.

W.H. Green, of Silsden, was the player on the harmonium, and there was also a good orchestra, including several players from Colne. The principals were: W.H. Green, Silsden, Miss Berry, Colne, Mr Sharp and Mr. Jackson, both of Silsden. They went through the work, every note and the performance lasted for three and a half hours, closing at 11 o'clock.

The place was packed out, and it was the only time that such an event had taken place in Kelbrook, before or since.

Then Mr. Foulds came to live in Earby and the Baptist choir got hold of him and he was appointed their conductor.

After Mr. William Hartley jun. resigned from the post of organist, he succeeded in getting Mr. Edwin Berry appointed and they had a long and happy tenure of office together.

The choir later went in for competition work and they secured first prize in the mixed voice contest at Burnley, and there was a gold medal for the conductor which he prized very highly.

At one of the Colne festivals, his elder daughter, Polly, won the first prize, and later his other daughter, Jennie, was in a quartet party at Barrow, and they carried off most of the prizes in their sections. They won the first in the quartet, his daughter got the first prize for contralto, and Virgil Crowther won first for both baritone and bass. Some other members of the party, Miss Grace Watson and Mr. Ellis (of Nelson) were also prize winners.

It might be mentioned at this point that Clara Watson, the leading member of the Baptist choir, has won an honoured place in local musical circles, and has often taken a prominent part in the performance of oratorio music in recent years.

A Presentation

after an association with the Baptist choir extending over twenty years, Mr Foulds was made a presentation on February 6th, 1907, which took the form of a handsome gold watch, bearing the following inscription :- Presented to Joseph Foulds by the members of the Baptist Church and Congregation, in recognition of his services and devoted labours as choirmaster. With sincere wishes for his future welfare." Mrs. Foulds was also presented with two fine ornamental figures.

Amateur Opera

Mr. Foulds has always been interested in operatic music, and when a younger man, possessed a splendid tenor voice, and took a principal part in "The Bohemian Girl" at the Nelson Theatre, which stands in his memory as his finest vocal achievement. About fifteen years ago he was associated with Mr. Frank Slater in the presentation of his local plays, and this was followed by the formation of the Earby Amateur Operatic Society, which performed several operas including, "The Mikado," "H.M.S. Pinafore," and "The Gondoliers." A new society has recently been formed, and the services of Mr. Foulds have been requisitioned as conductor. Mr. Foulds has always been

A Willing Helper

of other choirs, and on special occasions he has conducted the Earby and Barnoldswick Wesleyan choirs, the Earby United Methodist choir, and Salterforth Baptist choir.

Sunday School Music

In this sphere Mr. Foulds has devoted his best energies. He has conducted the combined Sunday Schools at their annual demonstrations for more than two decades, and he has also officiated in the same capacity on more than one occasion for the Skipton Sunday School Union.

There is nothing that he enjoys so much, and no sphere of public service for which he is prepared to sacrifice so much, as the training of young children in the best methods of voice production.

To see him on a wagon conducting hundreds of children at a festival, or conducting a childrens choir giving a cantata, is to see him in a realm of which he is a king. Long may he live to wield the baton which is more productive of human felicity than any regal sceptre.

Music

"There is something very wonderful in music." Words are wonderful enough but there is something more wonderful in music. It speaks not to our thoughts as words do - it speaks straight to our hearts and spirits, to the very core and root of our souls. Music soothes us, stirs us up, it puts noble feelings into us ; it melts us to tears, we know not how ; it is a language by itself, just as perfect in its way as speech, as words, just as Divine, just as blessed. Music has been called the speech of angels ; I will go further and call it the speech of God Himself." - Charles Kingsley.

"Observer"

- *Craven Herald & Pioneer 3rd August 1923*

Village Sketches: X

A Visit to Southport and a Chat With An Old "Earbyite"

I must confess to an interest in Southport which amounts almost to fascination. How well I remember my first visit, in the days of my boyhood, nearly forty years ago. For weeks and even months, I had been saving pennies received for running errands, and when Earby Feast came I was the proud possessor of four or five shillings.

The morning of the Feast Tuesday was gloriously fine, and a large company of villagers made their way to the station in high glee to go on the Feast trip to Southport. What a pleasing experience was that first long railway journey. After passing through the East Lancashire towns we glided along through the cornfields and then came into view the red-bricked houses of the seaside town. Now we were at the station, and in a few minutes we would behold the sea for the first time. Oh, how pleasing are the delights of expectation. Realisation, and even disillusionment can never rob us of the pleasures of hope and the joy of looking forward.

Though there was no swelling tide and foaming billows, yet beyond the wide stretch of sand there was the sheen of the silvery sea and the natural instinct of reverence and wonder which it called forth has never vanished from the mind of this beholder.

How the events of that day come back again. The sail to the cockle beds in a rowing boat ; the bare-legged sailor carrying his passengers for a dozen yards through the shallow water ; the donkey ride, strolling along the promenade with a penny cane, the drive in a wagonette in the afternoon, to the "Botanic Gardens," that wonder world then in its pristine glory with its trees and flowers and ferns, its aviary and its lake ; and to crown all, a day of sunshine when everyone felt it was grand to be alive. Aye, it was a red-letter day indeed ; but when the night shadows fell we were all glad to return home and nestle in our beds in dear old Earby.

Many a pleasant holiday have I spent at Southport since those early days, but that is another story, and my present intention is to record a most interesting chat I had with a former Earby resident a week or two ago. I had never met him before, and after our introduction he suggested a walk, so on a fine afternoon we found a nice sheltered spot in the shrubbery's on the promenade, when he recounted the following recollections of his early life :

The name of this venerable old Earby resident is

John Sanderson

"I was born at hill top, Earby, in 1848, and I was named after my father. My mother was a daughter of John Pickles (who has been previously referred to in these sketches) My fathers occupation was that of a wheelwright, and his shop was at Lane Ends. My first recollection dates back to 1851, when there was an excursion to London for the

Great Exhibition

The fare to London and back was 5s., and my father was accompanied by James Dodgson the village blacksmith, and a few other friends. When my father came back home he brought me a present from the exhibition.

A Startling Incident

I remember when I was playing in the street with a lot of other lads, and we so annoyed a woman by "striking fire" on the flags in front of her house, that she ran after us, and struck one of the lads to the ground. She was filled with horror when he lay on the road like someone dead, and my uncle Tom (Tommy Pickles) came running out of his cobbler's shop to see what was up, and he saw that the lad had got his neck knocked out. Fortunately he was able to put it in. We were quiet enough for a time after that!

The Mill

I recollect the building of Victoria Mill, and its being started by the Bracewell family. My mother was a weaver at the Old Shed, and when I was seven years old I was passed for half time, to learn weaving. We were expected to

salute Mr. Christopher and Mr. Henry in the street, and Mr. Christopher once complained to my father because I had, consciously or unconsciously, failed to give the desired salute. My uncle, Henry Pickles, the musician, who kept a grocers shop, also had two hand looms upstairs, and as a young lad I used to wind the bobbins for him.

The Doffers

were a rough set of lads, and when they had finished doffing the bobbins, and there was no work for them to do, they used to roam about the village and on the farms around, doing all the mischief they could. Their ring-leader was Bill Smith, and his nickname was "Feed 'Em," and he was a terror to many people. It is a pleasure to note that "Bill Smith" became Mr. William Smith, and is now one of the most respected and prosperous tradesmen in Burnley, and has a branch shop in Earby.

Joe O'Tibbies

was a quaint character, he recalled. He used to get the lads into a corner at the bottom of Earby, near James Brown's shop, and tell them tales about "King Ludd and the plug drawing." The introduction of machinery was resented very much by the working classes, as was the application of steam power for factory purposes. Gangs of men who belonged to a secret society went up and down the industrial districts smashing the machinery, and the

Plug Drawing Riots

were the last act in the campaign of destruction. The "Plug Drawers" came to Earby in 1846, and after they had drawn the "plug" in the Old Shed boiler, they went on to Skipton, where they were put to flight by the soldiers.

The country passed through a terrible time of suffering after the Napoleonic Wars ; and the distress of the workers became more acute in the first stages of the industrial revolution ; but public opinion recognised that there was no justification for resorting to destruction and terrorism to defeat what was really a public benefit. As a boy I attended

Bentley's School

and my particular friends were William Dodgson and Joseph Cowgill. Mr. Morris (Rev. Canon Morris) used to visit the school, and he inspected their work and patted on the head by way of encouragement.

"Mr. Sanderson" he once said to my father, "I think your son is getting on very well indeed."

William Dodgson was always at the top of the school, and I was second. I could never pass William. He had a wonderful memory, and could cast up three columns at once. My father built a corner shop in Water Street, and my mother became a milliner and sold groceries as well.

Then my father was advised by Dr.Parry, of Barnoldswick, to purchase some dental instruments and practice dentistry.

His first patient was Betty Green, and my father gave her a shilling to allow him to pull one of her teeth.

Earby Seventy Years Ago

was quite a small village, with one weaving shed that held about 200 looms ; one public house, "The White Lion," kept by Mary Edmondson, and two small chapels, the Baptist and Methodist.

Of Earby families the Wilkinsons were the most numerous, and there was no beginning or end of 'em. The postman came from Skipton one day with a letter for Mr. Thomas Wilkinson. He found the right house, but nobody knew Mr. Wilkinson. He was always known as Tom o'Bill o'Will o'Sally's. Then there was Will o'John o'Joe o'Dick's, who kept a grocer's shop, and had a good number of regular customers.

John o'Quart John's lived next door to our house, and it was always said that when he brought new butter home from Skipton market they kept the house door open so that people passing could see it on the table !

Then there was a peculiar character known as "Owd Wilkie" Ayrton. When there was an election at Skipton Wilkie sported the Liberal colours, but as he returned home, and passed Mr. Wasney's house at Fence End, he changed to the Tory favours, and passed through Thornton with great acclamation.

Wilkie used to go to Skipton every week, and he always brought back a copy of "The Illustrated London News." When he arrived home his house was the rallying ground to get the news of the week. He also kept poultry in the same place in which he lived, and sometimes they perched upon the bread rack.

There was an old woman named

Owd Mary Whiteoak

who lived near "Ireland Bridge," who was a fine character, and she had two sons who were mechanics at the mill. When "Gunpowder Plot" was coming round the village lads went from house to house a-begging for the fire, and "Owd Mary" gave them all her papers and magazines which she saved for them all year round. Not all the papers went on to the fire, and there wasn't a lad in Earby who wouldn't have done anything for her.

A Donkey Trick

There was an old woman whose name I forget, who lived in the bottom house in "Muck Street," and she kept a donkey. Her house was above a shop which occupied the ground floor, and was approached at the end by a long flight of stone steps with a landing at the top. One night some of the mischievous lads fastened some cockle shells to its feet with "rosin." Then they led the donkey up the steps, and the awful noise that the donkey made nearly frightened the woman out of her wits.

The father of Bill Smith (Feed 'em) was known to everybody as

A Donkey Trick

How he got that nickname I couldn't tell. They were connected with the Baptist Chapel, and when they got a new minister he made a call at their house. "Does Mr. Wing live here" inquired the minister.

"Mr. Wing?" inquired Jammy.

"Mr. Wing, is this his house?"

"I'll have you know that my name's Mrs. Smith and not Mrs. Wing," she said in angry tones.

The minister apologised, and poured oil on the troubled water as well as he could.

The Dippings

as the lads used to call them, were always an interesting event to the villagers, when people were publicly received into membership at the Baptist Chapel. The beck which runs near to the Old Chapel was dammed up, and the candidate for baptism went into water from one of the cottages close by. Among the Baptists, Nathan Watson was a particularly fine man. "He minded his own business, and brought up his family in a proper way."

Jack o'Miles (John Bailey) was also a big man at the Baptist Chapel, and his son Thomas was bigger again! They kept a nice shop in Stoneybank Road and Thomas was always gentlemanly in his manners. He married a daughter of Nathan Watson's. My uncle, Thomas Turner, was also a local preacher at the Baptist Chapel.

Our family was connected with the Wesleyans and they had some grand men, Mr. Wilson, of Thornton, James Dudgeon and several local preachers - Edmund Luanda, Robt. Greenwood, Tommy Smith, James Brown, and John Taylor. There was a man from Colne, John Hobson, who was a fine local preacher. He used always to hawk blacking, which he made himself.

Tommy At Varges (Thomas Wilkinson)

was superintendent of the Sunday School, and they always liked his addresses at the

Christmas Tea Party

I can remember him, just as well as if it was yesterday, saying "There are some folks who don't care how they live, and how they carry on. When they go to bed at night they just take their "clooas" off and roll into bed like a pig!" (But no description can reproduce the comical smile and the drawling intonations with which the words were said).

We always had a big "do" at P class="submain">

Earby Feast

especially with the singing and the playing of fiddles on the Sunday, and walking round on the Monday.

When I was about five years old I can remember walking round with the scholars, and I had on a pinafore frock with white sleeves, and some of the lads taunted me as we walked round!

After walking we had buns and milk, and Mr. Bracewell provided us with a field to play in.

There were also a few stalls in front of Old Mary Edmondson's (The White Lion Inn).

- Craven Herald & Pioneer 16 November 1923

Village Sketches: X, (Part 2)

Earby Feast

Of all the institutions of a social nature which have survived the march of time, the annual holiday season known as Earby Feast, is deserving of note.

Feasts in ancient times were associated with religious observance. Certain days were set apart on which the ordinary labour of life was suspended, and enjoyment of a more or less religious nature was indulged in. In all parts of the world, where ever the religion of the country has been dear to the whole of the nation, the fixed state festivals have been associated with religion.

Egypt had many festivals which were consecrated to the Nile, Oriris, Plato and her countless deities.

The Greeks had several festivals, but two principal ones, and the expenses were met out of the public purse.

In the later days of the Roman Empire the Imperial City revelled in innumerable feasts.

But many of the festivals of the pagan world were accompanied by disgusting performances and scenes.

Sacred Festivals

held an important place in the Jewish religion. The principal Jewish festivals were the Feast of the Passover, the Feast of Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. In the early years of the Christian church

Love Feasts

were instituted, and they were usually celebrated in the same place where the disciples met for worship, and in close connection with religious exercises. As the Church grew in numbers and wealth it became more difficult to manage such feasts with propriety, and to prevent them becoming occasions of scandal rather than edification.

The Methodist Love Feasts, which are still held in some parts of the country, are a lingering reminder of those primitive customs.

In England religious festivals had not only been associated with the headquarters of the Church in the City of London and in the Cathedral cities, but small villages had their feasts or fairs, which were held on or near the festival of the patron Saint to which the Church of the village was dedicated.

On the festival of the Patron Saint of the village, crowds of neighbours from adjoining villages flocked to the place, the inhabitants of which used to keep open house, and entertain all their relations and friends who came from a distance. They used to erect booths and tents with bows of trees near the Church and celebrate the festival with much thanksgiving and prayer. By degrees they began to forget their prayers and remember only the feasting. Peddlers and hawkers came to find a market for their wares, their stalls began to multiply, and thus the germ of a fair was formed.

The word "fair" is derived from the Latin word "feria," which means a festival.

The Parish Feast Day

The right of granting permission to hold a fair was, by degrees, vested in the King, who for various considerations bestowed this favour on nobles and Merchant Guilds. In country places this power was vested in the Lord of the Manor.

The fair was not open until it was proclaimed by the Mayor or the town crier, and then there was a bedlam of sounds, caused by the noise of the traders, the music of the minstrels, the jingling of the bells of the Morris Dancers, while hot coins were thrown to the children, who scrambled and shrieked with glee.

During the reign of Edward I it was felt that churchyards, or immediate precincts of the Churches and Abbeys, were being desecrated by fairs, and a law was passed to check the custom of holding fairs near to a place of worship.

But there were many villages which did not possess a Parish Church, and Earby is a case in point.

Village feasts or fairs became general, and the village green or common was the fixed locality for the festive proceedings.

Earby Feast in the XVIII Century

That our village, in spite of its being neither a parish or a township (being included in the ancient parish of Thornton-in-Craven) had a communal life of its own, is quite evident. In the Elizabethan period there existed many substantial farm houses and public buildings, and of these which are still in existence may be named Waddington Fold, commonly known as "Wadd Fowd," and now occupied by Mr. J.S. Procter (who is known to everybody as "Jim Sam"); the old Grammar School and the White Lion Inn. Probably there would be others which have been demolished or re-modelled. It is known that there was a substantial corn mill at Mill Brow, where the corn of the district was brought to be ground into meal, and later there was a warehouse at Green End for the storage of hand-loom woven cotton goods. At that time the centre of the village was

The Village Green

It was an extensive plot of common land in the centre of the village, and on the verge of it there was the well-built old fashioned country inn, the "White Lion."

Unfortunately all that remains of the "green" is an area of about 100 square yards in front of the inn and the Wesleyan Chapel, which is a bit of a "no-man's land" (and be it said with bated breath, a disgrace to whatever authority is responsible for allowing it to remain in its present condition).

In those days when every village was to a large extent self-contained, there would be the usual accompaniment of village civilisation, the blacksmith's forge, the wheelwright's shop, and the village store.

The approach of feast day would be attended by much gossip and preparation, and

Challenges Were Thrown Out

to the neighbouring villages and towns to try their skill and prowess against the men and boys of Earby. The games and contests were old-fashioned English games - wrestling, quoits, bowls, skittles and, in more modern times, a cricket match would be arranged.

The wrestling contest used to arouse widespread interest, for the village blacksmith, whose forge was on "the Green," was a "mighty man" both in his craft and in sport, and he held the "championship" for Yorkshire against all comers, the visitors even including, on occasion, giants from Cumberland and Westmorland.

In the days when rural England was in a more prosperous state, before the Napoleonic and other wars brought on blight and poverty, a village festival (according to Miss. Mitford in "Sketches of Rural Life") was "a joyful affair, especially when it was held in the beginning of July, when the days were at the longest, and the weather at the finest, and the whole world was longing to get out of doors."

According to Miss. Mitford it was customary at English rural festivals in midsummer to reproduce some features of the Maytime festivities.

This included the erection of a Mayhouse on the common or green, for the benefit of the dancers, the Mayhouse being composed of booths made of timber and canvas and garlanded with branches of trees and flowers.

The contests being over, the young people took to dancing, and the Mayhouse presented a scene of delightful animation, as the dancers performed their old English country dances, country lads and lasses mixing with the ladies and gentlemen of the district.

There was fun and revelry on all sides. "Punch and Judy" was there, with fiddlers and ballad singers ; - a Frenchman with dancing dogs - a Bavarian woman selling brooms - stalls laden with fruit, and frippery-boys throwing at boxes - girls playing at ball ; there were also donkey races, jumping in sacks, grinning through horse collars, and other diversions more renowned for their antiquity than their elegance."

There was plenty of eating and drinking on the "Green," with the older men smoking their pipes and recalling days of "Auld Lang Syne."

Earby Feast Fifty Years Ago

When Earby became an industrial community the annual feast retained its popularity, although the observance was changed in many respects.

Owing to the Enclosure Acts the Green and Common Lands around had been appropriated by those who held the manorial rights, and there was not the space available, as in former times, for the feast celebrations.

"The Fair"

associated with the feast continued as of yore, and was located round the old village inn. The stall holders, among whom was a well known character called "Swaggering Dick," took up their places on the spare ground that remained on "The Green," and the swings, shooting galleries, coconut shies, etc., were accommodated in the yard behind the inn, and the field around. Now and then a travelling circus would provide an extra attraction, and the popular "Punch and Judy" was usually in evidence.

What a scene it was in that crowded congested area, especially on the Saturday and Monday nights, with the village population swollen by visitors from Barnoldswick, Kelbrook, Thornton, Lothersdale and other places!

Fairground Scenes

There were men challenging each other to "try their strength" and occasionally a man could be found who could "ring the bell" at every stroke of the hammer. There were venturesome youths who risked their necks on the "swings," and nervous people feared they would go "over the top."

There was chaffing and jesting, hustling the "foreigner." The good sense of the people prevented much rowdyism, and no serious offence seemed to have marred the historical observance of the feast.

The White Lion Inn

is deserving of special notice in this connection. For about two and a half centuries it has maintained its existence, as shown by the following inscription which appears over the sign of a "White Lion," over the central doorway :-

IOSHVA : IANE
WINDLE : IVNE 29
R.B. 1681 I.B.

The two names, Joshua and Jane Windle, evidently refer to the original owners and occupiers, and the initials on each side of the date of erection are probably those of the builders. The name Windle is one of the oldest of Earby names, and the owners of the inn would undoubtedly be related to Robert Windle, who built and endowed the Grammar School.

As an old English inn for the lodging and entertainment of travellers, it must have had a remarkable history, if only its stones could speak. Nearby there is an old road which led from Skipton to Colne and Blackburn, and pack horse travellers would make it one of their calling places. It must be left to the imagination to visualise the scenes which took place in the kitchen and parlour of the inn.

To all old Earby people there is one name, that of Edmondson, which is inseparably associated with the village inn.

For four generations at least it has been in their possession. Mary Edmondson, who was known as "Owd Mary" and her son William Edmondson, who was born in the inn, must have occupied the house for about a hundred years.

Later it was in the possession of Mr. Matthew Gaunt, who married William Edmondson's daughter, Mary Ann, and it is now occupied by Mr. John Gaunt the younger son of the late Mr. Matthew Gaunt. (For some years it was also occupied by Mr. Greenwood Hartley).

Mr. John Edmondson, formerly the Earby carrier to Skipton, was the son of William Edmondson, and the late Mr. Richard Edmondson, of Cowgarth, was a brother. Their family name is one that has always been held in the highest regard in the village. Forty years ago, owing to the illness of Mary Edmondson, at the time of the feast, the fair was diverted to the lower part of the village, and the small field known as "The Doffers Croft," has ever since been called "The Fair Ground." It was adapted for that purpose by William Wright, of School Fields, and is now in the possession of Councillor Fred Wright.

Before the introduction of the "long holiday" at Earby Feast, the fair ground was a popular resort for people from miles around, as well as the villagers, and the scene was a dazzling and animated one, especially with the introduction of the modern "merry-go-round" with a mechanical organ.

During the 19th century, Earby feast had its religious associations in the

Charity Sermons

at the Methodist Chapel, in Stoneybank Road, and later, in the beautiful gothic Wesleyan Chapel, which is built on the old village green, and on the opposite side of the road to the White Lion Inn. These services been refereed to in previous articles, but it may be stated that they reached their climax in popularity about thirty years ago, when the chapel used to be packed to suffocation on the visits of Rev.J.R. Immison, a very eloquent and forceful preacher.

Sunday School Walking Days

prior to 1902, was always on "Feast Monday." There were only two schools then, the Baptist and the Wesleyan and there existed, for a hundred years, a good deal of friendly (and sometimes otherwise) rivalry.

When Earby got a brass band it was always claimed by the Baptists, and the Wesleyans had to be satisfied with "Barlick Band."

But it was a day!

Everybody turned out in the procession, or to watch it, and the whole place was en fete.

And what competition! Who had the most scholars in the procession? Which had the best display. Who sang the best? and everybody tried their hardest and best. Then there was a great tea party at the two schools, and afterwards they went on to two separate fields for sports and pastimes.

On one occasion they united, and that was just about fifty years ago on the coming of age of Councillor Robert W. Bracewell, eldest son of the late Mr. C. Bracewell. The processions joined forces at Green End House, and a presentation of an illuminated address was made to Mr. Bracewell by Canon Morris of Thornton. In modern times, thanks to railway facilities, Earby feast ended at the seaside. There was usually a

"Special Trip" to Morecambe

and sometimes to other Lancashire seaside places, but Morecambe used to be the favourite with Earby people.

How fondly one recalls those visits as a boy: The jolly parties on the train; the stroll upon the promenade, and the first glimpse of the Lake Mountains across the silvery bay; a ride in a waggonette to the "Strawberry Gardens," where a company of jolly trippers from down Yorkshire made merry by singing

"One more river to cross"-

"One more river to cross"

The animals went in two by two,
The elephant and the kangaroo,
One more river to cross.

To hear that sung with such gusto was worth going to Morecambe for; then on occasion there was a steamer trip to Grange, with its beautiful roses and greenery. Time has brought with it many changes, but may the spirit of old Earby feast live on amidst the new forms of social entertainment.

"Observer"

- Craven Herald July 18th 1924.

Earby Floods 1924 - Mill Stops Work

While Barnoldswick was practically immune from floods in the heavy downpour this week neighbouring places have suffered some damage, and at Earby Messrs A.J. Birley Ltd., Victoria Mill had to suspend work on Tuesday. It is expected that work will be resumed in ---- shed to-day (Friday). Grove Shed also suffered from flooding. When the rain ceased at 11 p.m. on Tuesday night, there had been an incessant downpour for 24 hours. The recorder at Earby sewage works shows that this month already 2.38 inches of rain had fallen which is not surprising when eleven of the thirteen days had been wet. For the whole of October the rainfall was 6.56 which is the heaviest rainfall recorded for October since 1916 when it was 9.93 inches.

The efficacy of the removal of Booth Bridge weir and the straightening of the Earby beck course by the council some time ago was seen in the fact that the beck carried all the extra flow of water away from the sewage works. The water when at its height at this point was two feet below the bank surface. This was a great contrast to previous occasions when the course of the beck could hardly be defined in the broad sheet of water which developed during heavy rains. The wisdom of the council's action in this matter abundantly was justified.

Lane Ends and Albert Street were flooded, the water in the latter case entering the Victoria Mill extension at the back and flowing through the shed, this overflow coming from the New Cut stream. In the neighbourhoods behind the Empire Theatre the overflow came from Earby Beck. At Waddington Fold Farm, occupied by Mr. J.S. Procter, a small bridge which spans the stream below the junction of the two streams was washed away but several bridges survived.

- *Craven Herald and Pioneer*

Earby - Our Village (IV)

The Bracewell Family

To the development of our village from a small agricultural hamlet to a fair-sized industrial town there is one name which stands out prominently - that is Bracewell.

The family originated in the locality of Coates, near Barnoldswick, and an old mill at Coates was at one time, about the beginning of the 19th century, run by one branch of the family. Mr. Christopher Bracewell, senior, removed from Coates to Thornton Hall and he married a daughter of George and Ann Smith, of Thornton. Their eldest son, William, was born in 1813. About that time the family removed to Green End, Earby, Mr. Bracewell having acquired the Green End Estate, in which handloom weaving was carried on, and at the end of the long row of cottages there was a warehouse which was used for the storage of cloth and yarn. Handloom weavers were accustomed to tramp to the Earby warehouse from many miles around with their pieces, returning with their yarn and bobbins. The woven cloth was conveyed to Manchester and Bradford by road. The walled-up doorways at the New Road end of the cottages are quite noticeable at the present time.

The Bracewell family became the pioneers of the cotton industry in its modern development over a very wide area.

The Old Shed, a long narrow building with windows at the sides, was built in 1839, the space providing for 140 looms, the power being provided by an old fashioned beam engine. The site of the shed was a little lower than the Green End warehouse, and abutting on a private road called "The New Road." Soon after the Old Shed was built the Plug Drawing Riots took place, and hundreds of people from Lancashire besieged the shed, and drew the boiler plug. The introduction of the power loom was much resented for a time by the weavers of Lancashire, and the neighbouring town of Colne appears to have been a hot-bed of "loom-smashers" and "plug drawers."

The rioters were dispersed by the military while they were proceeding from Earby to Skipton. The name of the firm who ran the Old Shed was styled "Christopher Bracewell and Sons." The eldest son, William, however, started manufacturing at Burnley in partnership with his brother-in-law, Samuel Smallpage, who married in 1846 Mary Bracewell. He removed to Barnoldswick and built Butts Mill.

Amazing success attended his enterprise, for the Butts Mill was twice enlarged; the large Wellhouse Mill was built; there were weaving sheds in conjunction with the spinning mills; weaving shed at Burnley (now the Burnley Iron Works), the collieries at Ingleton, flour mills, gas works, and many farms in the district.

In his day Mr. William Bracewell was reputed to be the largest single-handed manufacturer attending the Manchester Exchange.

The original firm at Earby continued to expand its operations. The business passed into the control of Mr. Bracewell, junior, and his brothers, Edmund, Thomas and Henry, and was called Ch. Bracewell & Bros. The large spinning mill at Earby with the weaving shed adjoining was erected in 1852, and the firm also took over the Airebank Mill at Gargrave and the Waterloo Mill at Clitheroe.

Edmund lived at Gargrave, Thomas at Clitheroe, Henry at Thornton, where he built the Manor House, which has been for ten years or more the residence of Sir Amos Nelson; and Christopher at Earby. Miss Jane Bracewell, their sister, settled in Gargrave.

For a period of about eight years Mr. Christopher and family resided at Southport, for the benefit of his health and the education of his children. At that time he took much interest in public affairs, and was elected a member of the town council. He was associated with a reception given to the Duchess of Teck on visiting Southport, and also a reception for Mr. Gladstone.

On the death of Edmund Bracewell the partnership of the firm was dissolved and the new firm of Christopher Bracewell and Sons retained control of the Victoria Mill, Earby, containing 36,000 spindles and 600 looms. They also took over Sough Bridge Shed with 500 looms and the Oak Mount with 67,000 spindles and 560 looms.

In addition to his industrial activities Mr. Christopher Bracewell became the largest landowner in the Earby district. He acquired possession of the Moor Hall Farm, adjoining Green End Farm and erected the large barn at

Moor Hall, which is the most prominent landmark on the countryside above Earby. There was accommodation for 64 head of cattle at Moor Hall and 30 at Green End. He also took over Waddington's Farm, Wheatlands Farm and Stoneybank Farm.

No Earby lad could forget the scene in our village during haytime when the "Old Master" was at the height of his power and influence. In addition to the regular farm staff 30 Irishmen were engaged for haytime, and on fine evenings when a lot of hay had to be gathered in scores of men trooped from the mill to the hay field to give a hand; and in the centre of operations was the Master sitting on his camp stool, or directing operations here and there in his characteristic manner.

And the sheep washing day in June! What a glorious Saturday morning it was to go down into "The Bottoms" and see hundreds of sheep penned up and then washed in the blocked up stream.

The Old Master was somewhat gruff and curt in speech, and he appeared to relish administering chastisement to mischievous boys by the application of his walking stick to their hinder quarters, but he was good natured at heart and generous when occasion called it forth. He and his family rendered invaluable assistance to the chapels, schools and public institutions in the village. He was twice married, and his first wife, a Miss Whittaker, of Bacup, who was a Baptist by family connections, obtained a gift from Mr. Riley, of Halifax, of land on which the present commodious Mount Zion Chapel is built, and she laid the foundation stone, but died before the building was completed. For his second wife, Mr. Christopher married a Miss Hopwood, of Burnley, his brother also marrying her sister.

They were largely responsible for the erection of the beautiful Gothic Wesleyan Chapel at Earby, and the similar chapel at Gargrave with the associated Day and Sunday Schools.

The Victoria institute, now replaced by the Liberal Club and Coronation Hall, which used to be the centre of the social life of the village, was provided by the Bracewell family, and in its day it was a great boon to the community.

And who, remembering our village of 40 years ago, can ever lose sight of the cricket field, which was provided rent free by Mr. Bracewell. One of the best village cricket fields in Yorkshire, near to the village, plenty of room all round it, nearly level, with a slightly raised crease, a veritable paradise for cricketers! And the story that will be handed down from generation to generation of how "Bob" Bracewell, who was a mighty hitter when he was in good form, once sent a ball clean out of the field against the Old Shed door!

Then there were the flower shows which owed so much to Mr. Walter and his sister Miss Carrie. They were unsparing in their endeavours to help on those events of a sociable character which brightened the life of the village.

Misfortune and then disaster unhappily came upon our Old Master and his family. Two mill fires at Gargrave, a devastating fire at Oak Mount, and the Earby mill fire in 1884, through all of which the family lost £100,000, and attendant periods of bad trade, completely changed their fortunes.

At 65 years of age the Master with his family emigrated to the United States and commenced farming at Greely, Colorado, the only son remaining at Earby being Mr. Walter, who assisted his brother-in-law, Mr. (now Sir) Dyson Mallison (who married Miss Lizzie), in the management of Victoria Mills. Mr. Robert returned to Earby, but the other two sons, Mr. Willie and Mr. Edgar, remained with their father. Life in the New World was quite congenial to the old master, and he lived to a hale and hearty old age, being only three months short of 87 years old when he finished his earthly career.

Time has brought with it many changes but there remain among the "Old Earbyers" a few who have kindly thoughts and grateful recollections of the Bracewells of Green End.

J. Hartley

- Craven Herald and Pioneer Thursday 14th January 1927

Our Village: V

Old Earby Families

The Wilkinsons

Of old Earby families it may be safely asserted that the most numerous and distinguished are the Wilkinsons. But bearing this name there are several distinct groups, and the most prominent of these are "The Dick's."

Away back in the latter part of the eighteenth century there were four orphan boys, whose father was named Richard Wilkinson, and in early life they were taken charge of and brought up by their uncle, George Turner. The boys' names were John, Joseph, Tom and George, and they were known to everybody in the village as John o' Dick's, Jooa o'Dick's, Tom o'Dock's and George o'Dick's.

The two eldest, John and Joseph, married two sisters, Elizabeth (Betty) and Ann Wormwell. John was married very young, but he must have been enterprising and prosperous, for he took over the School House Farm when he started housekeeping, and he and his wife reared a family of fifteen children, all of whom were born at the School House, at the bottom of Stoney Bank Road, which is now occupied by Mrs. Watson, but no longer as a farmhouse. Nearly all the land formerly belonging to the School Farm has been utilised for building purposes and allotments.

The names of the children, with dates of birth are as follows:-

Henry Wilkinson	January 16th 1816
Margaret Wilkinson	December 11th 1817
Mary Wilkinson	December 31st 1819
Joseph Wilkinson	September 13th 1821
Wm. Turner Wilkinson	April 26th 1823
Ann Wilkinson	November 15th 1824
George Turner Wilkinson	October 17th 1826
James Wilkinson	July 23rd 1828
Jane Wilkinson	June 21st 1830
John Wormwell Wilkinson	January 28th 1832
Sarah Wilkinson	October 7th 1833
Hartley Wilkinson	October 7th 1835
Edmund Wilkinson	June 4th 1837
Arthur Wilkinson	April 20th 1839
Ellen Wilkinson	November 23rd 1840.

This good woman, Betty Wilkinson, not only managed her household well and did her duty to her children, but actually officiated as the local doctor and it was said of her that she was the best doctor for miles around. She mixed her own medicines too and insisted upon her-----with one exception, followed her to her grave when she passed away, and her name is treasured by all who remember her or have succeeded her.

Canon Morris and the Wilkinsons

In his early days as Rector of the extensive parish of Thornton-in-Craven, the late Rev. Canon Morris had a most amusing experience which he never tired of relating. Coming into Earby one fine afternoon along the "causer" (causeway), between School Bridge and the bottom of Earby, he accosted a man known as "John o'Bett's," and asked him : "Can you tell me where John Wilkinson lives?" John o'Bett's, who was a "dreeapy" sort of talker, replied in a drawling manner which only an old Earbyite can fully appreciate - "Which John Wilkinson d' you mean - John o'Peggy's, John o'Phyllis's, John o'Nicky's, John o'Dick's, John o'Bessie's, John o' Bet's, or "Quart John?" (with emphasis on "Quart" which means quiet.)

Canon Morris told the Bishop of Ripon of his interesting experience on his next Episcopal visit, and the Bishop was so delighted that he exclaimed: "Say it over again and again until I can say it like you!"

Known to everybody in the village as "Dooad," he is probably the best remembered son of John o'Dick's, because of his association with the "Penny Reading" entertainments which were so popular sixty years ago.

The old Baptist Chapel, at the bottom of "Grelpit" (Gravel Pit) was converted into a mechanics institution, and it was also a village assembly room. The Rev. Canon Morris occasionally presided at the "Penny Readings," and he used to say : "Now I am going to call upon my old friend "Dooad" to give a reading. And what a picture "Dooad" made. A corpulent farmer of medium height, with a ruddy weather-beaten face, holding his book in one hand and a candle in the other, reading sketches from the "Clock Almanac." He always read Yorkshire dialect pieces, and there wasn't a better dialect reader in the West Riding, for he could read "John Hartley's Sketches" better than the renowned author.

Another of John o'Dick's sons, James Wilkinson, won for himself an honoured name in the Rossendale Valley. He left Earby in 1859, and after a few years residence at Rawtenstall he removed to Waterfoot. From 1863 he occupied a very responsible position with the Newchurch Spinning Co., and he was prominently connected with the Baptist Church at Waterfoot, being the teacher of the Young Men's Class for over twenty years. His wife, Isabella Wilkinson, who was an Earby woman, lived to be over eighty years of age, and it is recorded of her "that those who knew her best loved her most." She had a personality constantly serene and cheerful, and full of ready gracious hospitality."

Their son, Charles, became a first secretary and cashier of Trickett's, Limited, the world famous slipper manufacturers, and was held in very high esteem. Another son, Arthur, had an adventurous career in Australia. Before he migrated he had worked himself up from a messenger boy at Waterfoot Railway Station to become the foreman at the Britannia Quarries, having 500 men under his charge. When he arrived in Sydney, Australia, in 1884, he worked first at stone heaving and later at the Harbour Docks, the finest in the Dominion.

After a visit to the "old country," he introduced Trickett's slippers into Australia, and kept a stall in the market place at Sydney. Then he started "land jobbing" and building, and when he retired from business, having secured a comfortable competence, he and his wife paid another visit to England. He was taken suddenly ill while on a visit to Blackpool, and his remains were interred at the Earby Cemetery, June 1923.

Hartley Wilkinson, the village blacksmith in the old part of Earby, who was referred to in the previous article, was one of the younger sons of John o'Dick's-----

J.H.

- Craven Herald 18th February 1927.

Our Village VI

Old Earby Families

The Wilkinsons (2)

At the centenary meeting of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Earby, in 1921, Mr. Elihu Wilkinson, of Eastby, was one of the principal speakers. He enumerated the various groups bearing the name of Wilkinson, and convulsed the assembly by remarking, "and I belong to t' Quart John lot."

This family comes of a Kelbrook stock, and John Wilkinson, the grandfather of Elihu Wilkinson, having removed to Earby for the sake of employment, a new name had to be coined to distinguish him from the numerous company of "John Wilkinsons," and the by-name which won favour and was confirmed by general adoption was one that corresponded with his quiet demeanour. His children were commonly called by the father's by-name, and "Dick o' Quart John's" will still be remembered by Earby people living in the village forty years ago. He occupied a house in "T' Backside," now named Garden Street, and he went round Earby and the neighbouring villages with a greengrocer's cart. He retained his father's characteristics to the end of his life.

His brother, Thomas Wilkinson, was a weaver at Bracewell's Old Shed, and his early initiation into the cotton industry proved to be very valuable to him. As a young man he was very friendly with William Bracewell, and he used to go with him for "company" to Horton-in-Craven, when Mr. Bracewell was courting. Thomas Wilkinson stopped in the kitchen until the evening's courtship was ended and they returned home together. For some years Thomas Wilkinson was of a roving disposition, although he was married. He left Earby for Skipton, and for a time he was a cloth looker at Dewhurst's Mill. Then he returned to Earby, and later obtained a situation at Coventry as

a cloth looker. His wife kept a general dealer's shop in Earby, and as the husband could not see his way to settle at Coventry he returned. Being of an enterprising disposition, he started a coal business, but he abandoned that in favour of oatcake baking, being taught by William Bailey, of Barnoldswick. He and his wife having saved a bit of money, he entered into the cotton trade at Skipton, and built Park Shed, which is now run by his grandson. The firm has had a very successful career.

His son, John Wilkinson, also started manufacturing on his own account, first at Griddleton, then at Nelson.

In addition to the mills at Nelson and Skipton, finishing works were established near Manchester, offices in Portland Street, and a warehouse in London.

John Wilkinson was one of the leading townsmen in Nelson and after the charter of incorporation had been received he was the first elected Mayor, succeeding Alderman Gott, who had been provisional Mayor. He was a Liberal in politics, and a prominent member of the Baptist denomination.

Elihu Wilkinson, another son of Thomas Wilkinson, has had a successful business and public career. He continued the oatcake business in Skipton for several years, and he was well known in the town and the neighbouring villages as he attended to the wants of his customers. Later he joined his brother in the cotton trade, and eventually started on his own account in Skipton, and then removed to Pendle Street Shed, Nelson, where he had 480 looms for the manufacture of coloured goods. At Nelson he was an active worker at the Carr Road Baptist Church, as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also occupied a seat on the Nelson School Board, and was the chairman when the board was dissolved. He then sought council honours and was elected for the Bradley Ward, and was appointed as the chairman of the Education Committee. Twelve years ago he entered into partial retirement, and removed from Nelson to Eastby. During these later years he has been prominently identified with the Skipton Baptist Church and Sunday School, and his services have been in much request as a lay preacher for the Baptist and Wesleyan Churches in the Skipton district. He is one of the directors of the Skipton Building Society, and has been connected with the Society since he was twelve years of age, ever since "he began to save a bit o' money." He has now retired from the manufacturing business, which is carried on by two of his sons, one of whom lives at Nelson and the other at Manchester. He has also a son at Harrogate, and a married daughter at Eastby. He and his wife are a veritable "Darby and Joan," and everyone who knows them wishes they may be long spared to exercise their genial influence in and around Skipton.

I am indebted to Mr. Elihu Wilkinson for the following interesting recollections :-

"My father built the block of buildings in Water Street, Earby, which face the bottom of Aspen Lane, and our shop was at the corner facing the Victoria Mill.

The Varley family lived next door to us, and theirs was the only house in Earby which had curtains, excepting Green End House.

"William Varley was the outstanding character of the village. The Varleys had three children; one son, Alfred, became the Town Clerk of Colne; William was engaged in the clerical department of the Midland Railway at Keighley, and their daughter, Elizabeth, who married Henry Brown, engineer, was a very fine young woman.

"I went to Bentley School (the Earby Grammar School) for a bit, but our folk heard of a school at Elslack 'where they used the stick and get 'em on better.'

At Elslack School, Enoch Hall, an old soldier, was master. He was a beautiful penman, and he certainly grounded us well in the "three R's". He could only take us as far as proportion in arithmetic, then he would bring us back to compound addition. It was a good thing for me that I went to that school. Some of my school companions were Parker Greenwood, Thomas Shaw, Robert Shaw, Wilson Green and Johnnie Green.

"I remember 'Kitty' and 'Little Harry' Bracewell. Sometimes I used to go to the Wesleyan Chapel on a Sunday night, and the youngsters sat in the gallery. If there was any noise 'Little Harry' would pop up, and there was quietness at once. What an eye he had!

"At the mill sometimes 'Harry' was in charge and sometimes 'Kitty' but they had better work and a better going on when 'Kitty' was in charge.

"I remember an old lady, Mrs. Austerbury, kept an old Dame School across the road from our house, and as they gave us a long holiday at Elslack I had to go to Mrs. Austerbury's School. The old lady delighted to give me puzzling sums. She herself could not do them, but she had the answers in the book!

"Nathan Wilson lived next door to the Varleys. He was a very good thoughtful man. When he died Mr. Bennett, the Baptist minister from Barlick, preached his funeral sermon from the words: 'Behold an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile.' That just describes Nathan Wilson as I knew him.

"My grandfather, 'Quart John,' was uncle to Mrs. James Dodgson (referred to in a previous article) and uncle to John Wilkinson ('John Banks'), who was the carrier from Earby to Colne forty years ago."

J.H.

- *The Craven Herald, Friday 15th April 1927*

Our Village: VII

Old Earby Families

The Wilkinsons (3)

I have ascertained, on the authority of the late Bishop Wilkinson, that the name "Wilkinson" is of Danish origin, and means literally "Viking's Son."

It is an historical fact that after the Danish invasion of the North of England many of the invaders did not return to the Continent, and some of the settlers remained on the hill country stretching from Earby to Haggate, near Burnley. There are several place names in the Burnley district, which have survived more than a thousand years.

William Wilkinson

the first minister of the Earby Baptist Church, is entitled to worthy recognition. He was a native of the village, and by occupation was a handloom weaver. At the time when twelve members left the Baptist Church at Barnoldswick, early in 1819, to form a similar community at Earby, there were five Wilkinsons among the number, and William Wilkinson, junior, was appointed pastor at a salary of £10 per year. He laboured unsparingly for the good of the villagers, as well as the religious community to which he belonged, and for a long time he used the vestry at the old Baptist Chapel as a day school, and taught in the evenings as well. To raise funds for the chapel which was built in 1821, he travelled to London on foot, preaching at all the Baptist Chapels on the way which were open to him, and on arriving in London he was prevailed upon to preach in the famous Bloomsbury Chapel, and a handsome collection was generously devoted to him in recognition of his services and unselfish labours. He was held in venerable esteem by all who knew him, and was regarded as a real saint. It is impossible to estimate the influence for good which he exerted during those difficult years, when riot and disorder swept the countryside upon the introduction of the "power loom" and during the "hungry forties."

Another branch of the Wilkinson family tree was generally known as

"The Nickies"

presumably after a familiar name which was applied to the head of the family. They were associated in our recollection with the Mill Brow district, and many older residents will remember the kindly figure of Hartley Wilkinson, who was generally known as Hartley o' Nickie's. His son, William Wilkinson, is one of the most worthy native residents in Earby to-day.

Almost all his life-time he has followed the occupation of stonemason and builder, and in recent years he has established a successful contractor's business.

He has also rendered distinguished public service in several offices. For thirty years he has been an overseer of the poor, and has only just retired. He was a member of the old Parish Council from its beginning, and has had a longer period of service on the Urban District Council than any other Earby councillor. He was the first Earby man to be appointed Chairman of the Council, and his services to the Council have been of the highest order, by reason of his business ability and practical experience. He has had a life-long association with the Baptist Church, and was a leading supporter of the old Mechanics' Institute.

John and Thomas Wilkinson were two brothers, whose father was known as "'Calic,"

John Wilkinson

was a tackier at Bracewell's Old Shed, and of course, was well known on that account. He was better known, however, as one of the prominent workers at the Wesleyan Chapel and School. He was a manager of the Wesleyan Day School for many years, and remained a teacher at the Sunday School until he was a veteran. His principal forte at one time was that of chapel organist, and his wife (formerly Mary Ann Harrison, of Kelbrook) was the leading singer. Oratorio music was then becoming popular at "Charity Sermons," and this worthy couple were known all over the country side for their musical abilities and enthusiasm, for they could both take solo parts with deserving credit. When they passed away they left a legacy to the trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel, which is the only endowment the local church possesses.

Thomas Wilkinson

a man of different type to his brother. By occupation he was a farmer, at Higher Varges. He, too, was connected with the old Methodist Sunday School in Stoneybank Lane, and became a superintendent in early manhood. He is especially remembered for the originality and humour of his addresses. He removed to Gisburne, and was a farmer there for about forty years, but at Christmas time he was always a welcome visitor to the Wesleyan Tea Party, and the "star" speaker at the entertainment.

And what stories he told, and in such a comical style! Who that was there can ever forget how he completely convulsed a crowded school with the tale of a farmer who had a poorly cow, and sent for a friend to "pray over the cow," in the hope of its restoration. His friend came, and he "prayed" in these terms : "If tha' lives, tha' lives; an' if tha' dees, tha' dees ! "

The cow got better, and some time later the farmer's friend was very ill with the "Quinsies," and his life was almost despaired of. So the farmer thought "One good turn deserves another," and he went to see his friend, who was unable to speak. Taking his stand at the bedside, he said: "Well! if tha' lives, tha' lives ; an' if tha' dees, tha' dees." This caused the poorly man to break out into a fit of laughter, which burst the swelling in the throat and saved his life.

The head of another family of Wilkinsons was known as "Striker." One of the sons was called Tom, and this was converted to "Tit." He was the village humorist, whether in the mill, on the cricket field, or walking out with his mates. But it was unconscious effort on his part, which made it the more amusing. He was always making "bulls-" One story that lingers is associated with a day trip to Morecambe. "Tit," with some of his friends, turned up at the station as the train was starting on its return journey. "We s'ould all ha' bin left," he said, "if t' guard van hedn't put 'is heead out o' t' window."

Perhaps the best joke is that associated with a notice posted on the rails at the Manor House, Thornton, which was then unoccupied. A very prominent notice was displayed on a board:

On Sale

Walking out one Saturday afternoon, after they had passed through Thornton, "Tit" asked his mates if they had seen the notice-"No Sale." They laughed until they were split with laughing nearly, and the more they laughed the more he "stuck out" that it was "No Sale." So a bet was made, and the party trudged back more than a mile "to prove it." "Tit" was fairly done this time, and he never heard the last of it.

Wilkinsons at "The Mount"

"The Mount" is an imposing residence on the hillside above Earby, facing the village of Thornton, overlooking Thornton Wood, but always considered to belong to Earby. It formed part of the Fence End estate of Thornton-in-Craven, and was formerly used by the Wilkinson family as a summer residence, especially during the shooting season. Some members of that family are held in grateful remembrance.

John Wilkinson Wasney, whom we remember as the squire of Thornton-in-Craven, was accustomed once a year to traverse on horseback all the roads and bridle paths of the extensive parish to ensure that the public rights-were maintained.

A plain stone marks the resting-place of Mr. Wasney in Thornton Churchyard, and also that of his sister, of whom it is recorded "that no poor man was ever turned away from their door." Their characteristic generosity was continued by their successor, the late Mrs. Smith, and many are the families in Earby, as well as Thornton, who retain thankful remembrance of her kindness-

- Transcribed from the Craven Herald, written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by J.Hartley kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

Some Old Earby Families

James Brown the Village Postman

A century ago, in 1828, there was born of poor parents at the neighbouring village of Barnoldswick a lad who was destined to become one of the most honoured residents in the annals of our village. His name was James Brown, and his parents had such a struggle with poverty that the lad was put to work when he was seven years old, and he had to journey over the hills to Earby sometimes, carrying bobbins to a warehouse at Green End, returning with weft for the handloom weavers. When he was twelve years of age he was bound as parish apprentice to Wm. Sephton, the Earby village tailor, and he remained with his master until he attained to manhood.

As a youth, James Brown was eager to attain knowledge and improve his position in the community, and he gladly availed himself of the facilities afforded by the Methodist Sunday School, where he acquired the fundamentals of reading and writing. He was an omnivorous reader, and he developed a keen relish for literature. He was made a teacher at the Sunday School when in his teens, and became superintendent as a young man, a post which he held for a greater part of his life, for sixty years almost continuously.

As soon as he was free from his apprenticeship he was married at Thornton Church to Martha Turner, on July 14th, 1840, and the union was happily prolonged for more than half a century. The wedding took place on Earby Feast Monday, and attended by friends, the bridal pair walked to and from the church, the double distance being over two miles. In the afternoon, which was the Sunday School "walking day," the happy couple occupied the place of honour at the head of the Methodist Sunday School procession.

Mr. Brown became more enterprising after his marriage, and opened a shop at the bottom of Aspen Lane, fronting Water Street, and he later built the imposing grocer shop with an adjoining residence, on the opposite side of the street, where he resided for the rest of his days.

In addition to groceries and patent medicine the ambitious tradesman specialised in books, stationery and newspapers, and "James Brown Corner" became the centre of public interest. Men and boys used to behold with wonder the pictures which were displayed in the "Police News" and other illustrated papers as they continued to make their appearance. The stone landing outside his shop was often used as a platform for open-air public meetings, especially by temperance propagandists and political agitators. Mr. Philip Snowden used "his platform" at the beginning of his career.

Village Postman

It was the custom for letters to be brought from Skipton to Earby twice a week, but with the opening of the railway from Skipton to Colne there was an extension of postal facilities, and Mr. Brown's shop became the first village post office, and the worthy tradesman was installed as postmaster. There was only one delivery of letters, in the morning, and an evening dispatch of letters, for a long period, and Mr. Brown had no difficulty in discharging his duties to the satisfaction of the public, and he became one of the best known men in the village and countryside. He was a genial conversationalist, rather curt and abrupt in speech at times, but withal taking a kindly interest in the lives of the people. For many years he served the Skipton newspapers as local correspondent, and he took great delight in his minute yet effusive style. His services were often sought as chairman for lectures, entertainments, and other public gatherings, and his wise and witty sayings made him a popular master of assemblies.

But it was at the Methodist School and Chapel that Mr. Brown was in his best element. The "Old Chapel" in Stoneybank Road was very dear to him, and when it was used as a Sunday School and night school after the New Chapel was erected, he took a very zealous interest in all its proceedings. Before the days of compulsory elementary education, the Sunday Schools afforded to many young people their only chance of acquiring knowledge and social intercourse of an elevating nature, and the two schools in our village were crowded to overflowing with eager young people. He was an amazing Sunday School superintendent. Small in stature, spare in form, yet he possessed commanding qualities of a unique character. He dominated the school by the force of

his own personality. There was nothing perfunctory about him; he carried out his duties with fervid enthusiasm. No one who heard him will ever forget his reading of the hymns. On one occasion he called out in the tones of a drill sergeant, "stand up!"- and the whole school rose instantly; then to everyone's amazement he went on - "Stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the Cross." He had a sharp eagle eye for spotting offenders, and he would administer an immediate reproof from the desk. He is especially remembered for the addresses he used to give to the full assembled school. The passing of some great man of eminent character afforded him an appropriate text, and he never failed to "improve the occasion" when any local incident of note took place. Old scholars of sixty years ago delight to recall how Mr. Brown made effective use of "John Ashworth's Strange Tales" for reading to the school after the lessons were concluded, and his fervid and dramatic reading of those sketches produced an abiding effect upon the minds of the listeners. The Christmas entertainment in the Sunday School gave him a fine opportunity for the exercise of his unique gifts, and that platform was veritably his throne. Seated in the centre of the large platform, supported by the officers of the school and friends who were to address the gathering, and surrounded by the chapel choir, with a sea of faces in front (for every inch of standing room was occupied), James Brown had regal sway. In his peculiarly impressive style he gave out the opening hymn :- "Hark! the herald angels sing," and then for three hours he scintillated wit and wisdom as the programme proceeded. There was commendation and praise, with encouragement for all.

A Platform Shock

On one memorable Christmas evening he got a shock, and so did all who were present. In the middle of the entertainment it was the invariable custom to sing "While Shepherds" to the "Old Glory" tune. Two verses had been sung with hilarious gusto and as they were repeating the last line of the third verse - "And this shall be a sign" - there was a creaking and a crash, and in an instant all the occupants of the platform were huddled together. The central beam of the platform had broken, and some of the planks gave way, but happily no one was hurt. But what a sensation, and what a coincidence! After a little while the rest of the programme was proceeded with, but under difficulties. The main item in the evening's entertainment had been an unrehearsed incident.

For sixty years James Brown was a local Methodist preacher. He came on to the Colne Circuit, which then included the area now served by the Nelson and Barnoldswick Circuits in addition to Colne. He was also in much demand in adjoining circuits, and visited places in the Clitheroe, Skipton, Crosshills and Addingham Circuits. To the end of his life he was a welcome preacher at Albert Road, Clone, and Water Street, Skipton. He captivated the children at Clone with his inimitable addresses and they looked forward eagerly to his coming. They had an unforgettable experience one Sunday morning as the preacher was reading the story from the acts of the apostles of Peter's deliverance from prison. "Now then, children," he exclaimed. "what is an earthquake? There was a dead silence, so the preacher continued: "Well , if you won't tell me I'll tell you. An earthquake? Why, it's nature sneezing! (suiting the action to the word)" The effect produced upon the congregation was indescribable, and never could be forgotten by those present, for it was some minutes before the preacher was able to proceed with his reading, the whole assembly being convulsed with uncontrollable laughter.

An experience at Barley in Penile Forest well illustrates the sacrifices which the local preachers of sixty years ago had to endure. Mr Brown was "planned " to preach at Barley, at the foot of Penile on a fine summers day, when he was a young married man. The journey had to be made on foot, and as the first service was in the afternoon he had to get his dinner before he left home in the forenoon. His good wife, however, provided him with supplementary provision in the shape of an apple pasty, which was carried in a capacious coat pocket. When he drew near to Barley he halted by the side of the stream which runs by Roughly, to eat his pasty. The glare of sun made him uncomfortable, and looking around he espied a nice shady place across the stream where he could feast with contentment, so he rose with the pasty in his hand to cross the stream. Unhappily he stepped, on a slippery stone, lost his balance, and in the momentary agitation the pasty slipped from his hand and went floating down the stream. "I darted after the pasty," Mr. Brown gleefully related, "and grabbed as much of it as I could. Then I sat down under the tree, pulled my shoes and stockings off, and after wringing my stockings I hung them on the branches to dry. After that I finished eating my pasty, and I didn't want anything to sup!"

Dark Days

In the dark days which followed the closing of the Victoria Mill, after the removal of the Bracewell family, Mr. Brown took a leading part in the formation of the Earby Shed Company, which built the Albion Shed to provide work for the villagers, and he was appointed chairman of the company. He was also appointed as chairman of the Earby Water Co., and he was one of the managers of the Wesleyan Day School until it was taken over by the County Council.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown celebrated their golden wedding on Earby Feast Monday, July 14th. 1899. After the parade through the streets of the Sunday School scholars, a presentation was made to them in the Wesleyan Chapel,

which was crowded. In addition to personal gifts there was a handsome time-piece bearing a suitable inscription, and a purse of gold.

Mr. Brown's earthly pilgrimage came to an end on July 14th, 1908, and during Earby Feast Week he was laid in his last resting place in Earby Cemetery. His wife passed away a few years before. On the stone which stands at the head of the grave there is added a significant inscription - "And of five children who were interred in Thornton church-yard." These children all died in infancy. Mr. Brown had six other children, three of whom are resident in Earby now - his son John and two daughters, Mrs Kay and Mrs. Briden. Three sons entered the scholastic profession, James, William, Ebenezer and Albert, but the last-named took up journalism and served his apprenticeship with Mr. John Dawson on the old "Pioneer" staff. For three years he was domiciled in Ceylon, and occupied with great credit the post of reporter to the Legislative Assembly. He has since held several editorial positions in connection with provincial newspapers. Mr. Brown's grandson, A.B. Kay, has had a brilliant journalistic career. Such a character as James Brown will always remain an incentive to Earby youths to live a worthy life, ever striving to be of service to the community in which they live.

*"Not once or twice in our rough island story.
The path of duty was the way to glory."*

J.H.

- *The Craven Herald 23rd November 1928*

Thornton in Craven

Bygone Days in an Ancient Parish I

We publish below the first of a series of articles on the ancient parish of Thornton-in Craven from the pen of Mr.A.H. Clegg. The ancient parish included the townships Of Thornton, Earby, Kelbrook and Harden, and Mr. Clegg's survey will deal with some of the bygone forms of civil and ecclesiastic administration as revealed in old documents which for the first time have been used as the basis of public writing. In compiling material for the first article, a section of which is now given, Mr. Clegg acknowledges the permission of the Bishop of the diocese and the courtesy of the Rector of Thornton-in-Craven for access to certain documents. Having regard for changes which are imminent in the administration of the Poor Law, Mr. Clegg's sketch of the system of poor relief over a century ago is of special interest.

The ancient parish of Thornton-in Craven consisted of four townships, namely, Thornton, Earby, Kelbrook and Harden. The first three of these are mentioned in Domesday Book. In olden days the parish was the district in which one parish priest ministered - the area which paid tithes and other ecclesiastical dues to the same person.

The Parish Meeting, or Vestry, played a very important part in the life of the parish. The business at a Vestry was not confined to matters affecting the Church. In early days the distinction between things secular and things ecclesiastical did not exist. In this article it is proposed to deal with the care of the poor of the parish about a century ago.

Perhaps a brief explanation of the general system of poor relief prevailing at that time would be advantageous. In those days each parish was responsible for, and had to maintain, its own poor. The ultimate authority in all parish matters was the Vestry. The various officers of the parish were elected by the Vestry. The poor law system in force dated from the time of Queen Elizabeth. In 1601 an Act was passed which directed that officers should be elected for each parish called "overseers of the poor," whose duty it should be to raise a common fund " for the necessary relief of the poor" by "taxation of every occupier of lands, houses, tithes, coalmines, or saleable underwoods in the parish," and this system continued with modifications, down to about 1834.

Prior to 1722, parishes which desired to build a workhouse had to get a special Act of Parliament, but in this year an Act was passed which authorised Overseers, with the consent of the Vestry, to start workhouses, or to farm out the poor. If applicants for relief refused to go into the workhouse they forfeited their right to any relief at all. In 1796 another Act was passed which abolished this restriction of right to relief to persons willing to enter the workhouse, and for the first time the granting of out-door relief to the able-bodied was made general. An Act of 1795 repealed the Act of Settlement of Charles II's reign which enacted that the Justices, at the complaint of the Overseers, might order any person coming to live in the parish to be removed back to his own place of settlement unless he could give security against becoming chargeable to the parish. This Act provided that nobody was to be removable until he became actually chargeable to the parish, and even then the order for removal was to be suspended in cases where the pauper was dangerously ill. Further, in 1795 conditions were so bad and there

was so much poverty, that the Speenhamland system of supplementing wages from the poor rate according to a scale based on the price of a gallon loaf, was largely adopted. In 1819 an Act was passed which allowed parishes to set up a select Vestry and ordered that in these parishes the Overseers should give relief as ordered by the select Vestry.

Poverty and Distress

There can be no doubt that there was a great deal of poverty and distress in the parish of Thornton-in-Craven in the early part of last century. For the period of 22 years from 1816 to 1837 the amount disbursed in poor relief was about £24,060, or an average amount of over £1,093 per year, and the population of the parish in 1801 was 1,202 persons! Payments to the poor for different years are as follows :- 1816, £1,411 ; 1817, £1,490 ; 1818, £1,211 ; 1819, £1,410 ; 1820, £1,238 ; 1821, £829 ; 1822, £778 ; 1823, £871 ; 1824, £1,060 ; 1825, £1,081 ; 1826, £2,830 ; 1827, £1,261 ; 1828, £1,006 ; 1829, £1,231 ; 1830, £908 ; 1831, £895 ; 1832, £880 ; 1833, £855 ; 1834, £705 ; 1835, £620 ; 1836, £616 ; 1837, £863.

Each year the Overseer's accounts were passed by two magistrates in the following form : "West Riding of Yorkshire. Perused and allowed by us two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace acting in and for the said Riding, the same being duly verified upon oath." Incidentally, the expenses of the journey to the magistrates to get the book signed were from 5s. to 7s.6d. per year.

It will be noted from the above figures that 1826 was the year of greatest distress within the period, and during this year over 400 persons belonging to the parish were relieved to the extent of £2,830. The winter of 1825/6 was a hard one, and 1826 appears to have been a disastrous year throughout the country, and especially in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Wood was scarce and wages, even when work was to be had, were low. From 1826 the payments to the poor gradually decrease until, in 1836 the amount was £616. The number of persons in receipt of poor relief in any one year seems to have varied between 150 and 400.

The years 1816 to 1820 was a bad period from the point of view of distress. Conditions seem to have been somewhat better from 1820 to 1823, but from then until 1829 distress was great, 1826, as stated above, being the worst year. Payments from the parish to the treasurer of the Skipton Union commenced in October, 1837, as a result of the Poor Law Act of 1834, and for the half year October, 1837, to March, 1838, £323 13s.7d. was to be paid. The following figures for 1816 may be of interest. In this year the amounts paid to the poor in the different townships of the parish were as follows : Thornton, £358 ; Earby, £340 ; Kelbrook, £441 ; Harden, £272 ; making a total of £1,411 for the whole parish.

For the same year the rates were as follows : Thornton township, 65 cesses at £9 10s.5d. per cess, £618 7s.1d. ; Earby township, 65 cesses at £4 17s.0d. per cess, £315 5s.0d. ; Kelbrook township, 65 cesses at £4 2s.10d. per cess, £269 4s.2d. ; Harden township, 65 cesses at £3 1s.0d. per cess, £198 5s.0d. Earby Mill in this year paid 65 cesses at 3s.7d. per cess, amounting to £11 12s.11d.

In 1826, when expenditure was highest, the rates for the whole parish were 118 cesses at £20 14s.4d. per cess - a total of £2,444 11s.4d. In 1823 the rates are shown as 51/2 books of poor rates at £210 14s.01/4d. per book. As the poor rate mounted up, parish authorities kept a very strict watch on strangers entering the parish.

There was much poor law litigation. Lawsuits between parishes were continually occurring and in 1815 it is estimated that in the whole country the money spent in litigation and removal of paupers amounted to £287,000. Thornton-in-Craven contributed its share to this huge sum as the following items show : 1817 Law Bill, £76 2s.6d. ; 1820 Law Expenses, £80 16s.7d. ; 1826 Law Expenses, £48 3s.8d. ; 1828 Bill of Law, £11 2s.0d. ; 1831 Law Costs, £56 11s.0d.

In 1817 the Overseers of Thornton received of the Overseers of "Barlick their share" of a paupers expense, namely, £4 ; and, the Overseers add, "now Barlick takes him to them selves" - no doubt to the joy of the Thornton Overseers, as it would relieve them of some expense and responsibility.

In 1832, the Overseers received from the Overseer of Salford for the maintenance of S.W. while under removal orders, £3 9s.0d. Apparently a native of Salford had settled in Thornton parish and unfortunately become chargeable to the parish, hence the Overseers had probably obtained an order for his removal back to Salford. The Thornton accounts show many payments to persons living outside the parish, but these would originally belong to the parish, which was therefore responsible for them.

The Overseer

Previous to 1817 the Thornton Vestry seems to have appointed its Overseers by turn or "rotation of farms" and such Overseers seem to have been unpaid, but the Vestry held 27th March, 1817 decided "that the old of late practice of Overseers serving the office by turn, or rotation of farms, is not for the benefit in general, of either the payers of assessments or the poor, therefore it is agreed that two men shall be hired for the year ensuing to serve the office of Overseers." At the same meeting, two persons were elected to "serve the office of Overseers, jointly, with a wage from the parish of £30, who are to collect their assessments every month, and enforce all arrears as speedily as possible and make up their accounts of all disbursements monthly." Further it was agreed that the two Overseers should "have the usual allowance for necessary journeys out of the parish, which are to be made as few as possible." This last instruction is a naive and direct hint to the Overseers to economise.

One rather suspects that the chief reason for the appointment of paid Overseers was the defaulting ratepayers, with whom one cannot help but have some sympathy considering the amount which had to be raised each year. The Overseers were elected annually at a Vestry held in March, and probably their election was subject to the approval of the magistrates as the minute of their election usually takes the following form : " At a meeting held pursuant to Notice for the purpose of returning to the magistrates a list of substantial Householders to be appointed Overseers of the poor for the Parish of Thornton, for the year ensuing the following persons were approved etc."

The Overseers often held other parish offices as, for example, in 1818 the two Overseers were also appointed Constables and Collectors of Assessed Taxes, their joint salary as Constables being £2 2s. for the year. The Vestry often elected a committee, or select Vestry, to assist the Overseers. At a Vestry held 2nd June, 1817, "sixteen persons were appointed to form a committee, to assist the Overseers when required, in property inspecting and administering relief to the poor." The select Vestry was appointed under the Act of 1819 previously quoted, and had to be submitted for approval to two magistrates. Relief was usually given in cash, but it might also be given in kind or might take the form of payment of rent or free medical attendance. Apparently the poor were paid once a month, and at a Vestry held 21st March, 1833, it was resolved : " that the poor shall be paid on the first Thursday in every calendar month at 11o' clock in the forenoon, that T.B., J.S., J.W., and B.P. shall assist the Overseer and shall examine the accounts and settle them every three months and shall for their trouble receive the sum of £1 6s. each."

In 1818 the following relief to various persons was made in kind : Aprons 2s., shoes 2s.6d., healds etc., 4s.6d., petticoats, etc., 7s.7d.

The following items appertain to medical attendance :- At a Vestry held 1st June, 1818, it was agreed with Dr. Petty, of Gisburn, to attend all the paupers within the Parish of Thornton from this time to the 4th day of April, 1819, for the sum of £6." In 1826 doctors bills paid by the parish amounted to £7 13s.0d.. In 1837, 15s.6d. was paid to William Harrison, surgeon, Gargrave, for attending D.P.'s family in September, 1837. In 1818 the Overseers paid to a property owner "for house rents" £16 18s.5d. Probably these houses were occupied by persons in receipt of poor relief, their rents being paid for by the parish.

To Be Continued

- *The Craven Herald, Friday April 26 1928*

Thornton in Craven

Bygone Days in an Ancient Parish I (continued)

Mr.A.H. Clegg's first of a series of articles on the ancient parish of Thornton-in-Craven is continued below. The first instalment appeared in the CRAVEN HERALD on April 26.

The Overseers were occasionally troubled with defaulting ratepayers. The following items appear to indicate that some unfortunate persons were in arrears

Earby Overseer received of A.B. for clock and drawers sold to C.D. under a distress £5. This was in 1816. In 1829 the proceeds of M.W.'s furniture amounted to £7 18s.7d. In 1834 the Overseers received for goods sold belonging to the late R.N., 6s.4d. Also in 1816 the arrears of cesses in Thornton township amounted to £7 8s.10d. The Overseers frequently lost rates through property being unoccupied, empty houses, and through rates allowed to poor cottagers. The following items are from the accounts of 1830 :- Commons unoccupied, £6

3s.41/2d ; barhouses, chapels rates, but cesses not collected, £4 4s.6d.; rates allowed to poor cottagers, £5 13s.9d. The Vestry seems to have its share of trouble with regard to the re-assessment and revaluation of property in the parish. At a Vestry held 16th November, 1826, a re-valuation of all property in the parish was decided upon in the following term : "At a meeting of such persons as are assessed or are likely to be assessed for the necessary relief of the poor of the parish of Thornton held in pursuance of notice duly given for the purpose of taking into consideration and deciding the best measures to be adopted for making and laying upon all rateable property within the said parish, a fair and equal assessment for the necessary relief of the poor thereof and for other purposes in the several Acts of Parliament mentioned relating to the poor. It was unanimously resolved : 'That a new valuation of all rateable property within the said parish of Thornton shall with all convenient speed be made by such person as the committee hereinafter mentioned shall select for that purpose. That in the making of such valuation such valuer be guided by the admeasurement recently made of lands in the said parish of Thornton under or by virtue of the Thornton Inclosure Act. That the expense of making such valuation shall be paid by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the said parish out of moneys arising from the poor rate for such parish.'"

Further at a meeting held 11th February, 1830, pursuant to notice for the purpose of considering the propriety of reducing the rates on the moorland throughout the parish of Thornton, it was resolved that the overseer be directed to demand not more than, after the value of, one shilling and three pence per acre on all such land.

A short time afterwards, at a Vestry held 1st April, 1830, "pursuant to notice for the purpose of regulating and altering the assessment of cottages, houses and other buildings within the parish of Thornton, it was agreed that there shall be a rate made after the present valuation."

The Workhouse

From 1824 to 1837 there seems to have been a workhouse for the parish. At a Vestry held 25th March, 1824, the following was resolved :-

"This meeting considers a workhouse very necessary and of the greatest importance, and we, the undersigned, consider and authorise the overseers to procure a part of Holden Clough, if it can be obtained, if not to procure one where it can be obtained for the most advantage."

Apparently the suggested workhouse was obtained, for the accounts show that during the year £48 15s. was spent on it.

The following interesting items relating to the workhouse are taken from the accounts. 1827. To cash for fixtures (sic) in Holden workhouse, £2 8s.6d. ; Dec 27th, 1837, Holden Workhouse bills, etc., paid, £22 8s.51/2d. ; by cash for H.B. weaving at workhouse, £3 19s.2d. ; by cash for H.A. weaving at workhouse, 3s.6d. ; by cash to K.T. weaving at workhouse, £2 9s.6d. The last three items are also referred to in the accounts as "Received by paupers' work at Holden Workhouse £6 12s.2d." Does this mean that handlooms were installed in the workhouse, and that they received the above amounts for weaving done by the inmates?

There is nothing to indicate where Holden Clough or Holden Workhouse was. But it seems probable that the above minute refers to a workhouse that was already in existence. No trace of such a workhouse having existed in the parish of Thornton can be found, hence it appears that the overseers obtained the use of part of some workhouse outside the parish. It is possible that the workhouse referred to was at Holden, near Bolton-by-Bowland, as a workhouse was in existence there at that time. The following items are rather puzzling : 1817, the overseer for Kelbrook and Harden received by payment of looms rent etc. £19 13s 31/2d. ; 1827, to cash for barrows sold at Thornton, £3 14s.9d. ; 1827, to cash of R.W. for Ingeon (sic), 10s. ; 1830 received of J.B. in part of £1 for looms, 7s.6d ; received of C.R. in part of 10s. for loom 3s.6d., received of B.T. part of his rent, 3s.6d. ; 1830, received of H.E. for one pair of looms £1 10s.

County Rate

As at the present time, the County rate formed part of the Poor Rate. The payment of the County Rate is shown in the Thornton accounts for 1824. For the period of fourteen years from 1824 to 1837 the total amount paid by the parish in County Rates was £2,057, an average of £146 per year.

The year of the highest County Rate for this period is also the year of the highest Poor Rate, namely, 1826, when it was £185 15s. The journey to pay the County Rate cost as a rule 10s.

Constable Account

The Constable Account is entered in the overseers' accounts, the amounts paid to or received from the Constable Account by the overseers being given. Unfortunately, from a historical point of view, no individual items are shown.

In days gone by, stocks, whipping posts and ducking stools were in frequent use and the unfortunate person who had to inflict these parochial punishments was the Constable. It was an ancient office dating back over a thousand years.

When a new Constable was required he was appointed by the Vestry.

From 1818 to 1820 there were two Constables, but from 1820 onwards only one. The Constable received 2 guineas a year for his pains.

At a Vestry held 22nd April, 1824, six Special Constables were appointed, three for Earby township and three for Kelbrook township. These were in addition to the regular Constable and it was unusual, but there may have been some special reason for it.

From 1818 to 1823 the Constable Account seems to have been a profitable concern, for during this period the overseers received sums varying from £2 to £9 per year from it, but from 1823 onwards they paid to the Constable Account an average of £8 10s. per year.

Road Making

The accounts for 1826 include the following :- Cash belonging roads making and repairing, £541 10s. ; expenses belonging the road, £295 12s.9d. But there is nothing to show whence this money was obtained or on what roads it was spent. The date leads one to think that the expenditure had some connection with the Thornton Award of 1825, based on the Thornton Inclosure Act of 1819.

In this award the Commissioner appointed by the Act set out and appointed certain public carriage roads to be constructed. It is possible that the Surveyors of Highways for the parish supervised the construction of the roads, but it is probable that the money came from rates paid by the several proprietors, who had land allotted to them as a result of the Inclosure Act, and perhaps from other land owners in the parish. Other miscellaneous items in the accounts are as follows :- On May 15th 1817 the Thornton overseer received of A.B. "for one year's rent of house in Cam Lane to Michaelmas 1816, 10s.6d." A rent which would be a joy to present day householders! On April 6th, 1818, the overseers received of J.C. for militia money the sum of 10s. In 1826 the parish paid "By proportionate share for powerlooms damaged belonging to J.Mason, £9 14s.9d." This item invokes interesting speculation. Who was J. Mason? Who damaged the powerlooms and why? Why did the parish pay a share? Who paid the other share or shares? I think it is probable that the item is connected with the riots which occurred at Addingham and Gargrave in 1826.

As stated above, 1826 was a year of great distress, and in addition to the distress the handloom weavers and spinners were haunted by the fear of further trouble to come through the introduction of power-driven machinery, and some took to rioting. W.H. Dawson, in his "Loose Leaves from Craven History" gives interesting accounts of these riots.

Mr. Jeremiah Horsfall had decided to install power-looms at his mill at Addingham. During April, 1826, a wagon load of machinery was sent from Cheshire for Mr. Horsfall's mill. It travelled by way of Colne. A large number of hand-loom weavers from Colne, Trawden, Wycoller, Laneshawbridge, Cowling and maybe other villages, met the wagon there and followed it. Eventually, near Laneshawbridge they broke up the machinery. Within a few days of this outrage the same crowd decided to visit Addingham and break up the machinery in the mill as they had broken that on the wagon. Their designs were frustrated by the action of the work people in the mill and the timely arrival of soldiers.

The rioters then decided to proceed to Gargrave to destroy the looms in Mr. Mason's mill there. Mr. Mason met them outside the village and tried to dissuade them from their misguided plans. He even offered them money to buy food. They persisted, however, and in a quarter of an hour completely destroyed the looms and then quietly dispersed to their own villages. For the damage done by the riot the parishes in the wapentake of Staincliffe had to pay. Each parish paid its share. Whether any persons from Thornton Parish took part in the rioting is not stated, but Thornton Parish would have to pay its share, which probably explains the item of £9 14s.9d. paid as a proportionate share for power-looms damaged belonging to J. Mason."

In the same year the overseers received from Mr. A. for the conveyance of T.B. to Wakefield House of Correction the sum of £2, and in the following year they also received of Mr. A. for the conveyance of M.E. to Wakefield House of Correction a further sum of £2.

In 1837 the overseers paid £23 0s.10d. for a map and plan of the parish, and this "was the balance between the charge of map and the money paid by the proprietors." The reason for the making of this map is not given, but it may have been required in connection with the formation of the new Skipton Poor Law Union. The next two items throw an interesting light on the cost of postage in 1827, for in this year 5d. was paid for the postage of a letter from Colne respecting H.N's rent and 8d. was paid for the postage of a letter from Thornton near Bradford, respecting R.E. and his family.

The first payment to the Skipton Union was made in October, 1837. The overseer's accounts cease in March, 1838, as in this year, after nearly three and a half centuries, the duties of the overseers of the parish respecting the relief of the poor, were taken over by the Skipton Union.

At a Vestry held 22nd March, 1838, two overseers were appointed, namely : J.S. and T.B., and it was decided " that this meeting do agree to pay J.S. for his services as overseer and guardian the sum of twenty five pounds, he being to attend at the meetings of the Board of Guardians and also to assist the relieving officer on the weekly pay day and make out and deliver all lists to magistrates and Chief Constable without further charges ; that this meeting be binding upon all ratepayers of the parish."

And so ends an interesting but unfortunate phase in the history of the ancient parish of Thornton-in-Craven.

A.H.C.

- *The Craven Herald, Friday May 3rd 1929*

Thornton in Craven

Bygone Days in an Ancient Parish II

Below, Mr. A.H. Clegg, of Kelbrook, continues his series of articles dealing with bygone days in the ancient parish of Thornton-in-Craven. The two previous articles, which appeared in the CRAVEN HERALD on April 26th and May 3rd, examined the poor law system in its relation to the parish about a century ago.

Enclosures - Tithes - Drainage - Roads

We usually think of an Act of Parliament as dealing with some problem affecting the whole country, and not as something parochial.

But in 1819, Parliament passed an act specially for our old parish of Thornton-in Craven, which consisted in those days of Thornton, Earby, Kelbrook and Harden. This act received the Royal Assent of King George III. on 14th June 1819. The title was : "An Act for inclosing and exonerating from tythes, lands in the Manor and Parish of Thornton-in Craven, in the County of York."

The reasons for the Act being passed are stated as follows :-

"Whereas there are within the Manor and Parish of Thornton-in Craven, certain commons and moors, commonly called or known by several names of Thornton Moor, Kelbrook Moor and Bleary Haugh, and Howshaw otherwise Howshaugh, and several small parcels of waste or uninclosed land, containing in the whole one thousand acres or thereabouts."

"And whereas the said Commons, Moors and Wastelands are, in their present state, of very little profit or benefit to the several persons interested therein ; and it would be of great advantage to such persons if the said Commons etc., were divided and inclosed, and such Allotments awarded unto and amongst the several and respective proprietors and persons interested therein, in proportion and according to their respective Rights, Property and Interest of and in the same ; and if the said Commons etc., and also the ancient inclosed Lands and Grounds, and other Tenements and Hereditament within the said parish of Thornton, were discharged from Tythes, and from all Moduses Compositions and other payments in lieu thereof : But the several purposes aforesaid cannot be effected without the Aid and Authority of Parliament."

At the time the Act was passed, Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart., was Lord of the Manor of Thornton, and as such was the owner of the soil of the commons and moors, and of the coal mines, veins and seams of coal and all other veins of minerals within and under them.

The Rev. Robert Gee, clerk, was rector of Thornton, and in right of the said Rectory was fiefed of certain glebe lands and the right of common belonging to them, and was also entitled to all the great and small tythes arising within the parish or of certain moduses or compositions in lieu thereof.

Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart., Richard Bradley Wainman, Esq., George Worrall, Esq., the Rev. William Atkinson Wasney, Clerk, and Joshua Windle, George Smith and several other persons were proprietors of lands and buildings in the parish and in respect thereof claimed to be entitled to right of common upon the unenclosed commons and moors.

But although the Act applied to Thornton-in-Craven only, yet other Acts of a similar nature were passed for many other parishes at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century, and it did in reality form part of a national movement known as the Enclosure Movement.

Cause of the Enclosure Movement

During the Middle Ages and largely up to the middle of the 18th century methods of agriculture were based on the "open field" system.

Under this system the manor contained three arable fields, each "field" being divided into acres or half acre strips separated from each other only by "baulks" of unploughed earth.

The strips held by any one person were not together, but scattered in different parts of the field or fields. Much agricultural work, such as ploughing, sowing and reaping, was carried out on a communal basis. Each year one of the "fields" was left fallow. Commons, moors and woodlands generally surrounded the open fields.

The system was necessarily wasteful, and under it progress in the new methods of farming was almost impossible.

The enclosure movement of the 18th Century was brought about largely through the desire to replace this old unsatisfactory system, which was holding up agricultural progress, by compact farms and enclosed fields, so that better crops and improved stock could be produced.

Between 1797 and 1820, 1727 Inclosure Acts were passed, of which the Thornton Inclosure Act was one.

The duty of carrying out the Act was entrusted to a commissioner, namely, William Pilkington, of Hensall, gentleman, who had a land surveyor, Henry Teal, of Leeds, to assist him. The work apparently took over five years to carry out and in 1825 the Commissioner made his award, known as the Thornton Award, which is a most interesting document.

The Thornton Award

It was laid down in the Act that if old surveys of the parish existed the reliability of which the Commissioner was satisfied, he could lawfully use them in making his award without causing a further survey to be made. However a new survey was made. The powers of the Commissioner were great and he had many responsible duties to carry out. Subject to an appeal to the Courts his decisions were final, but it was laid down that his award was not to be impeded or suspended by any action at law. Any encroachments made upon the commons and moors within twenty years previous to the passing of the Act were to be deemed to be part of the commons and were to be divided and inclosed along with the rest.

In addition to dividing and inclosing the commons and moors and making arrangements for exonerating all lands, tenements, etc., in the parish from tythes, the Commissioner was empowered to stop up old roads (except turnpike roads), to have new roads made, to make or cause to be made new drains, ditches and waterways, and to allot to the Surveyors of the Highways quarries for the purpose of getting stone, sand, gravel, etc., for the making and repairing of the public and private roads, drains, etc.

The size of the parish was 5,436 acres and the portion to be enclosed under the Act was about 1,000 acres.

It is interesting to note that several roads in the parish and the drainage system in Kelbrook Bottoms are the result of the Inclosure Act and Award.

New Roads

The Award first deals with public highroads, bridle-paths and private carriage roads. The commissioner caused a survey, plan and evaluation of all the commons, moors and waste lands to be made and also of all the messuages, cottages, orchards, gardens, homesteads and ancient inclosed lands and grounds within the parish to be made by the surveyor appointed under the Act, and declared the whole of the said commons and moors to contain in statute measure 969 acres, 1rood and 7 perches. He then set out and appointed the following public and private carriage roads :-

Public Carriage Roads

1. The Wentworth Head Road of width of 30 feet which commenced at the Colne to Skipton Turnpike Road on Thornton Moor near Wentcliffe Head leading in a north-westerly direction across the moor to the township of Elslack.
2. The Moor Gate Road, commencing at Moor Gate leading over Kelbrook Moor to the north end of Cob Lane.
3. The Dodgson House Road commencing at the ancient gate near Dodgson House and leading in a south-easterly direction across Thornton Moor to the Colne to Keighley turnpike road in the township of Lothersdale.

Private Carriage Roads*

1. Standridge Clough Road commencing at Dodgson House Road on Bleary Moor and leading in a north-easterly direction to an ancient lane in Standridge Clough.
2. Bleary Side Road commencing at the Colne to Keighley turnpike road on Bleary Moor leading in a north-westerly and then northerly direction to an ancient lane near a place called East Baw Head.
3. Hauber Lane Road, commencing at the east end of Hauber Lane and leading in a southerly easterly then easterly direction to the south-west corner of an allotment set out to the Rector of Thornton for glebe,, thence across the allotment in an easterly direction to the north end of Wentcliffe House Road.
4. Thick Bank Road, commencing at Moor Gate Road near Thick Bank, and proceeding in an easterly direction to an ancient inclosure.
5. Hard Clough Road, branching out of Moor Gate Road on Kelbrook Moor. leading in a south-easterly direction to Hard Clough Road, and thence in a south-easterly direction.
6. Copy House Road, starting from the Bleary Side Road on Bleary Moor, and leading thence in a westerly direction to an estate called Copy House.
7. Higher Vargues Road commencing at Standridge Clough Road and leading in an easterly direction to an estate called Higher Vargues.
8. Knowl Road, starting at the Moor Gate Road near a place called Knowl and leading in a south-easterly and then easterly direction to two allotments.
9. Dick Field Road is now called Waterloo Road and it seems probable that the route of the old road which precedes it was slightly diverted.
10. Kitchen Road branching out of the Colne to Keighley Turnpike Road near Howshay Bar and leading over an encroachment lying on the west side of the said turnpike road to a farm called Kitchen.
11. Burnt Hill Road, branching out of the Colne to Keighley Turnpike Road and going in a westerly direction over an encroachment to certain farms and lands called Burnt Hill and Brown Hill.

12. Rake Bank Road starting at an ancient lane called Rake Bank and leading in a southerly direction to an ancient inclosure.

After directing the above carriage roads should be made, the commissioner directed that at all times hereafter the Public Carriage Roads should be kept in repair by such persons and in such manner as other public carriage roads were by law supported and kept in repair and that all the Private Carriage Roads and any bridges or tunnels across such roads should be maintained and repaired by the Surveyor of Highways within the parish of Thornton, and that the costs should be paid by the several proprietors of the commons etc., divided and enclosed under the Act according to the value of their respective holdings, and specified in the Rate Schedule drawn up by the commissioner and included in the Award, under the title of "A rate for the repair of the Private Carriage Roads."

The schedule designates 73 allotments the owners of which had to contribute towards the rate for the repair of the roads. The total acreage of these allotments was about 960 acres, and the total amount of the vote was £6 8s. 8¹/₄d. It was not a flat rate per acre the value, position and probably the extent to which the new roads would benefit the different plots being taken into consideration when fixing the rate. The Trustees of the Sunday School, Kelbrook, which school was in the present Waterloo Road, near the site where Fort's Buildings now stand, paid one farthing towards the rate for five perches of land.

The rate on an allotment of 114 acres on Thornton Moor was 19/5.

*These roads varied in width being either 21, 24 or 30 ft wide.

- *The Craven Herald, Friday June 25th 1929*

Thornton in Craven

Bygone Days in an Ancient Parish III

History of the Parish Registers by A.H. Clegg

Previous articles appeared in the CRAVEN HERALD on April 26th, May 23rd, June 14th, June 21st, and August 23rd. Mr. Clegg here deals further with the parish registers and the local history they reveal.

Old Local Surnames

The following surnames are mentioned in the registers during the period 1566 to 1571, that is over three and a half centuries ago :-Aerton, Accarrenley, Bauldwyne, Bawle, Brown, Brears, Banks, Batty, Carr, Charyar, Cowgill, Craven, Dryer, Dixon, Ellis, Emot, Grandirge, Hartley, Hytchin, Higson, Heber, Hirst, Hargreaves, Jackson, Mytchell, Parker, Rippon, Riddihalg, Robinson, Redman, Swyer, Smyth, Staw, Swynden, Swayne, Slater, Taylor, Towne, Wyndle, Wilcock, Watson, Willian, Wode, Whythead, Wright. Between 1698 and 1703, that is, nearly a century and a half later, the following surnames recur :- Ayrton, Brown, Cowgill, Craven, Driver, Emot, Grandorge, Higson, Hartley, Parker, Riddeaugh, Staw, Slater, Smith, Swire, Taylor, Watson, Wright, Windle, and, in addition, the following are recorded :- Atkinson, Armistead, Boulton, Barrit, Barrett, Dodgon, Dodsyon, Edmundson, Flud (also Flood), Howorth, Halstead, Johnson, Kaye, Kendall, Manknowlids, Morwill, Polard, Pate, Robert, Skakelton, Spencer, Sharp, Turner, Tillotson, Tonge, Wane, (alsoWaune and Wawne), Wilkinson, Whitwham, Wilson (Willson), Wormal, Waddington. It will be noted that a good proportion of the above surnames survive to the present day in the locality, but many seem to have disappeared.

Woollen Shrouds

From 1683 to 1688 each entry of burial in the register is followed by the word "Certified" with the date. For example :

Sepulti, 1688
Christoper Whitwham - Apl 22
Certified - Apl 22

This certification is really an interesting link with the history and development of one of our oldest and still one of our most important industries, namely, the woollen industry.

A remarkable enactment was passed in 1687 in the reign of Charles II., the Merry Monarch, that all Englishmen should be buried in a woollen shroud. The enactment was in force from 1678 to 1815, and was intended to stimulate the growth of woollen manufacturing.

In the registers, no particulars other than the certification, are given, but it was the custom of those who were responsible for the burial to take an oath in a form somewhat similar to the following :- "A.B.maketh oath that C.D.of T, lately deceased was not wrapped, wound up or interred in any shirt, sheet or shroud, but what was made of sheeps' wool only, according to act of parliament in that case provided."

Witness my hand, A.B.
Sworn in my presence, X.Z.

Excommunication

Among the entries for 1694 a person who had been excommunicated by the Church is mentioned.

This carries us back to the time when moral and other offences were dealt with by the church. Such jurisdiction has now practically lapsed and many offences, which during the 17th and 18th centuries would have been presented by the churchwardens at the annual visitation and tried by the chancellor of the diocese, are now dealt with by civil courts.

Under certain canonical laws, if the person presented was convicted he was either ordered to perform penance or excommunicated.

Excommunication was a really serious matter, for it involved various civil liberties. For instance, no excommunicate could bring an action or be a witness. If excommunicate persons did not reform themselves "within three months they were, every six months ensuing to be denounced excommunicate in their Parish Church and the Cathedral Church of the diocese." The denunciation was to be made by the minister at Divine service on the Sabbath.

Persons who were denounced in this way "could not make a will nor be entitled to a Christian burial."

Penance

If the person repented, he or she was assigned a penance which had to be performed according to a regular form or custom.

There are no particulars in the Thornton Registers of any penance so performed but a penance was performed in the Parish Church of Burnsall on 12th July 1791 in the following manner, and might prove of interest.

"The offender bareheaded, bare-footed and barelegged, having a white sheet wrapped around him from the shoulders to the feet, and a white wand in his hand, immediately after the reading of the gospel should stand upon some form or seat before the pulpit or place where the minister read the prayers and say after him a form of confession of the offence with a prayer for forgiveness."

The congregation then repeated with the offender the Lord's Prayer. A certificate that penance had been performed was then signed by the minister and the churchwardens. Hundreds of such forms of penance are preserved in the Archbishop's Registry at York, and probably there are some relating to the parish of Thornton-in-Craven.

The Lister Family

The Lister family were connected with Thornton for over 300 years. In 1556 William Lyster, Esq., became Lord of the Manor. He purchased the manor from Henry, Earl of Rutland, and John Manners, Esq.

The transaction is given as follows in the "Feet of Fines for the County of York" :- "1556-57, 3 and 4 Philip and Mary. Hilary Term. William Lyster, Esq., plaintiff, Henry, Earl of Rutland, and John Manners, Esq., deforciantis."

The deforciantis transferred the Manor of Thornton-in-Craven, sixty cottages and a watermill, with lands there and in Earby, Kelbroke and Hagh-in-Craven, and the advowson of Thornton Parish Church.

"Fines" were at that time the legal means of transferring property, and the plaintiff was the person to whom the property was to be transferred.

An Old Will of 1852

The will, dated 1st September, 1582, of the above mentioned William Lyster is given in "Yorkshire Deeds" and makes interesting reading. A portion of it is as follows : "William Lyster, of Thornton, Esquire, sicke in body, but in whole and perfect remembrance, prayed be God, considering in my mind the surite of deathe and that there is nothing more uncertayne than the daye, houre, and tyme, myndinge by Godes grace and pemissione to give and render to God and man that thinge to him belonginge accordinge to the saying of the scripture, "Reddite que sunt Cesaris Cesari, et que sunt Dei Deo," do ordeyne this my testament conteynge hearin my last will in maner and form following.

First and principallie I bequeath my soule unto Almyghtie God, my oneli saviour and redemer, and my body to be buried in the parishe church of Gisburne by the discrecon of my executours.

"And I will that all maner of duties be fullie given to the churche and all the ministers thereof, and the same to be taken and paide of my whole goodes without anie grudge, accordeinge to the lawes of God and the Church of England. "Unto my son Lawrence Lyster..... my coal mynes and Silritt pyttes or mynes within the manor or hall mote of Colne in the countie of Lancaster, and all such righte as I have in the coal mynes of Trawden in the countie of Lancaster ; and all my tables, formes, bedstockes and brewinge vessel beinge at Thornton, with a third parte of my best beddinge (sic) at Thornton aforesaid or els where ; and also one salte which my grande father maide, one dosene of my best spones, and one faire dringinge boyle gilte.

"Unto the pourest of the parishe of Thornton fyve marks, to be distributed at the decrecon of the curate their and the churche wardens."

He also left to Bartholomewe Lyster, his son, among other things the corn mill called "Barnoldswicke Mylne."

Entries in the Register

The following entry occurs among the christenings for 1572 in the Thornton registers:-

"Edmund Lyster, son of William Lyster, Esq., 26th Sept."

According to the pedigree of the Lyster family given by Whitaker, this Edmund Lyster became a captain and died in Ireland.

Lawrence Lyster mentioned on the foregoing will eventually succeed to the manor of Thornton. He married Everilda, the daughter of John Sawyer, of Richmondshire, whose name is among the Recusants in Yorkshire in 1604. His will, dated 20th August 1609, was proved at York 9th December, 1609. Three of his children are mentioned in the registers as follows :-

1583. Christening. Jean Lyster, daughter of Lawrence Lyster Esq. 8th May

1591. Christening. William Lyster, son of Lawrence Lyster, Esq. 27th Nov.

1602. Nupti. Gylles Parker, gentleman and Anne Lyster. 19th Oct.

Gylles Parker was one of the Parkers of Horrockford, near Clitheroe, and was the last male heir of his line. They had an only son, Nicholas, who died in infancy.

The William Lyster christened in 1591 was heir and on the death of his father in 1609 became Lord of the Manor of Thornton. He was knighted by James I. in 1615, and became M.P. for the borough of East Retford. His daughter, Frances, married John Lambert, of Calton, at Thornton, the entry in the register being as follows :-

1639. Nupti : Johannes Lambert et Frances Lister. Sept 10th.

Other entries relating to the Lyster family are :-

1603. Nupti : John Byram, gentleman, and Mrs. Elyn Lister. 27th Jan.

1607. Nupti : Stephang Hamerton and Maria Lyster. 5th Oct.

These were both daughters of Lawrence Lyster. John Byram was of Byram Hall, Co. Lancaster, and Stephen Hamerton of Hellifield Peel, in Craven, Co. York.

Thornton and the Civil War

We now come to the part Thornton played in the great struggle between Charles I and parliament.

John Lambert of Calton, became a famous parliamentary general. From the beginning of the struggle he supported the parliamentary cause, as did Sir Wm. Lister, M.P., of Thornton, Capt. William Lister, of Thornton, son of Sir William Lister, and Thomas Heber, of Marton.

General Lambert sat in Parliament during the Protectorate, but at the Restoration was exiled, and forfeited his estates in the neighbourhood of Calton. According to Whitaker, he died on St. Nicholas Island in Plymouth Sound, in 1683.

During the Civil War he was for some time in command of the siege of Skipton Castle, which supported the Royalist cause. Eventually he became Major General of the five Northern Counties, a responsible position, which it has been said he filled with "great wisdom, moderation and justice." His wife was described as "most eloquent and accomplished."

Capt. William Lister, of Thornton, became one of General Fairfax's officers, and was killed in 1642 during a skirmish between Parliamentarians and Royalists at Tadcaster. Fairfax was in command of the Parliamentarians, and in his report to parliament he says : "We took seventeen prisoners in the fight, and on our part we lost six men and Captaine William Lister, a valiant and gallant gentleman, who was shot with a musket bullet in the head. "He also refers to him as "a religious and resolute gentleman, whose death is much lamented."

The following entries of soldiers buried are in the Thornton Registers for 1642 and 1643 :-

1642. Sepult. Duo milites occisi, Dec. 27

1642. Sepult. Hargreaves de Stothill, occisus, Dec. 30

1643. Sepult. Miles, die April 18 (given as April 16 in Whitaker's).

1643. Sepult. Tredicim milites, die July 26, 1643.

The thirteen soldiers buried on the 26th July were killed in the struggle for Thornton Manor House.

Sir William Lister, M.P., supported the Parliamentary cause, and during July, 1643, his house at Thornton - the old Manor House which was probably situated not far from the present Manor House - was besieged by a party of Royalists from Skipton Castle, under Lord Darcy, and captured. The following month it was retaken by the Parliamentarians. Soon afterwards it was burnt, along with the barns and stables, by Prince Rupert, and never rebuilt. Whitaker states that at the end of the 18th century some men, whilst digging among the ruins that were still lying about, discovered an apartment on the ground floor with the old furniture undisturbed.

In 1646 Sir William received a grant of £1,500 from Parliament for the damage done to his estate and for the loss of his son, Capt. William Lister, mentioned above. Sir William Lister fought at Marston Moor in 1644, and in 1645 commanded the Parliamentary troops in Yorkshire.

He died in 1650.

- Craven Herald Friday 18th October 1929

Thornton in Craven

Bygone Days in an Ancient Parish IV

History of the Parish Registers by A.H. Clegg

Mr.A.H. Clegg, in the article published below, continues his survey of the history of the ancient parish of Thornton-in-Craven. Mr. Clegg deals with the church two centuries ago in Thornton and Barnoldswick and illuminates his article by the inclusion of two documents throwing light on parochial life in the two parishes on the middle of the eighteenth century.

Mr. Clegg's previous articles appeared in the "Craven Herald" on April 26th, May 23rd, June 14th, June 21st, August 23rd and October 18th.

One may fittingly introduce this article by the announcement that Archbishop Herring became Archbishop of York on April 6th, 1743. In preparation for his primary visitation, he sent out a questionnaire consisting of eleven questions to each of the 903 parishes in his diocese which consisted at that time of almost the whole of Yorkshire. No less than 836 out of the 903 parishes made returns, and these are preserved among the muniments of the Archbishop of York at Bishopthorpe.

The returns give a detailed and valuable picture of Church life as it was in 1743. The information is valuable from a social, as well as ecclesiastical, point of view. There were 711 clergy apart from assistant curates ministering in 903 parishes.

Questions I and II required information regarding the population of the parish, the number and kind of dissenters in it, their meeting houses and teachers. At that time Halifax was larger than either Leeds or Bradford. Halifax had 6000 families, Leeds 4000, Sheffield 2000, Barnoldswick 200 and Thornton-in-Craven (Thornton, Earby and Kelbrook) 148 families. Estimating an average of five to a family, the population of Barnoldswick was 1000 and Thornton 740.

Dissenters

The dissenters mentioned in the returns were Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Independent Baptists, Society of Friends (Quakers), Moravians and Methodists. The Roman Catholics were mentioned in 262 returns, but in most cases they were few ; that is , only one or two families in a parish.

In only 59 parishes were there regular congregations and they had 36 chapels or places of worship. In only two cases is there evidence of open hostility on the part of the incumbent to his Roman Catholic parishioners and one of those was Broughton-in-Craven. There was probably reticence on the part of the Roman Catholics, as penal laws could be invoked against them, while no penal laws could be invoked against dissenters.

Presbyterians were mentioned in 205 parishes. They had 70 chapels, four of which were in Haworth. Independents were rarer, being mentioned in only 24 returns, whilst Baptists were mentioned in 62 returns with 18 chapels, 2 being in Kildwick-in-Craven.

By far the most numerous of the dissenters were the Society of Friends, who are reported in 310 parishes. They had 107 meeting houses, one being in Barnoldswick and one in Salterforth. Moravians were very few, being reported in four parishes only. Methodists are mentioned in 22 returns, with 22 meeting houses. Methodist teachers mentioned include such well known names as John and Charles Wesley and John Nelson. It must be remembered, however, that in 1743, Methodists were not strictly speaking, dissenters.

Two interesting facts stand out clearly in the returns, the first being the begging of the Methodist Movement, and the second the prevalence of the Society of Friends, there was in 1743 little or no dissent in the country parishes.

Schools

Replies to question III, which sought information regarding public and charity schools, provided information of great interest to educationalists. In 266 parishes out of 645 in Yorkshire, there was apparently no school and no mention made of any secular teaching. There was a public school in Thornton-in-Craven and Barnoldswick. A large number of parishes had small endowments for the Parish Church or for the poor. Apparently , Thornton and Barnoldswick were unfortunate, for they had at that time neither almshouse, hospital nor charitable endowment.

Pluralism and Non-Residence

Pluralism, that is, the holding of more than one benefice at a time, was one of the evils of church life at that time. As many as 393 out of 836 parishes mentioned had no resident parson, and the commonest reason for this lack was the possession of another benefice, although in some cases it was due to the smallness of the income. Out of 711 clergy, 335 were pluralists. The rector of Thornton possessed another benefice, and the vicar of Barnoldswick was also the vicar of Bracewell. Pluralism and non-residence necessitated the employment of assistant curates. In a few cases the curate was allowed £40 per annum, probably with the use of the parsonage house, but more commonly it was £20 per annum. The curate at Thornton received £35 per annum.

Church Services

Churches to the number of 383 had two services - Matins and Evensong - each Lord's Day throughout the year. Most of the others had only one - although some of these had two during the summer months. At Thornton public service was held twice every Sunday, and at Barnoldswick every other Sunday.

On the whole, the returns indicate strongly that the clergy as a body were "exemplary in their lives, diligent in study, kindly in nature and sensible in advice. They gave a willing and helpful hand to their parishioners over the stiles in the path of life." To them was due largely whatever was done in the way of elementary education, and they welcomed cordially the introduction of Sunday Schools. The clergy's failure lay in the fact that they were not superior to their times and they often lacked enthusiasm.

Thornton and Barnoldswick Returns

I append exact copies of the returns of 1743 sent in from the Thornton and Barnoldswick parishes. The Thornton return is published for the first time, and I am indebted to a kindly East Riding rector for a copy of it.

Thornton.

Craven, 1743

I. In the parish are 148 Families. Of these 16 are dissenters, viz., 8 Quakers and 8 Anabaptists.

II. In this parish there is no licenc'd or other meeting house, that I can find out. An Anabaptis'd Teacher formerly resorted hither, but has not been in the parish of late.

III. There is a publick school in our parish endow'd with Twenty Pounds p Annum, free to the parish at large ; in which care is taken to instruct children in the principles of the Xtian Religion according to the doctrine of the Church of England and to bring them duly to Church as the Canon requires.

IV. There is in our parish no Alms House, Hospitall or other Charitable endowment Neither have lands or Tenements been left for the repair of our Church, or to any other pious Use.

V. I reside chiefly in person upon my cure, and in my Parsonage-House ; and when absent from thence, I have the care of another Parish.

VI. In my absence I have a residing curate duly qualified who lives in my Parsonage-House, and I allow him above Thirty five Pounds p annum.

VII. I know of none who come to Church, that are not baptiz'd : or, that being baptiz'd and of a competent age, are not confirmed.

VIII. The publick service is read in our church twice every Lord's Day.

IX. Children are usually Catechis'd in our Church after Easter, and the parishioners send their children and servants to be instructed.

X. The Sacrement of the Lords Supper is administered in our Church Five Times in the year. There are 361 Communicants in the Parish of which few receive, particularly only 23 last Easter.

XI. Open and timely warning of the Sacrament is given before it is administered : But our Parishioners never send in their Names, as is requir'd, neither has it ever been usual here. The Sacrament has been refus'd to none. I have nothing Particular to give in Answer to the above Enqirys.

I am with due deference,

Your Grace's most Humble Servant,

H : Richardson

Rector a 'Thornton

Churhwardens.

Old :

John Brown
Robert Tasker
John Willian

New :
John Brown
Robert Tasker
John Willian

Barnoldswick.
Craven, 1743

I. There may be two hundred families and many of them dissenters wholly, or some or more in a family. There no Papists but Quakers or Anabaptists commonly called. (none bury in separate places except Quakers) one fourth part nearly being dissenters.

II. There is a meeting house at Barnoldswick and another of the Quakers at Salterforth in same parish. They of Barnoldswick refuse Infant Baptism and are called Baptists or by some Anabaptists and Antinomians are very numerous. Their Teacher is one who dwells in the meeting house, and they weekly assemble if not oftener except when he travels abroad.

III. There is a school at Barnoldswick maintained by the goodwill of the parishioners and public for all the parish The master teaches twenty or thirty children and is conformable and careful to bring them duly to church.

IV. We have no alms house Hospitable [sic] &c in our parish.

V. Barnoldswick peculiar is joynd with Bracewell contiguous unto it ; the Minister resides at Bracewell.

VI. There is no curate besides myself.

VII. There are some who come to church of whose baptism I am not well assured : but so many as are of competent age I exhort very frequently to be prepared for confirmation.

VIII. The public Service is read every other Lord's Day and when it is not there , it is perform'd at Bracewell.

IX. The children and servants are almost constantly [sic] (?accustom'd) to say their Catechism in the afternoon of each Lords day.

X. The Sacrement of the Lords Supper is administered four times in the year for the most part, the number of communicants are generally near twenty or thirty and near twenty received at Easter last.

XI. I constantly read the exhortation required in the Common book of prayer openly and timely before the administration. And none have been refused from communicating.

I submit all to your judgment, and pray for your Grace's health and happiness and remain
Your obedient Servant,
Arthur Tempest.

Instituted : 5 Dec. 1717.

Churchwardens:
Old:
James Bullock
Richard Fort

- Craven Herald Friday March 14th 1930

Our Village

15th Article

Earby's Christmas in Bygone Days

There is no phase of Earby's village life which is more pleasant to recall than the observance of Christmas in former times.

When our village was but a small hamlet the Christmas festivities were confined to the homes of the people, and in the larger farm houses there would be family parties, supplemented by neighbours and friends. The rooms would be festooned with holly and evergreens, and on the hearth a great Yule log would send out a radiant glow. The bountiful spread of the festive tables, which never lacked good English beef and plum pudding, was eagerly partaken of, and the health of the host and hostess would be duly honoured. What tales would be told by the "older end" as they gathered round the fire, and what laughter and mirth would be provoked by the customary games into which the children plunged so eagerly. Christmas, with its festivity and good feeling, was a welcome break in the monotonous round of the winter months.

Early in the nineteenth century the social life of the village centred round the two chapels which had been built, one by the Baptists the other by the Methodists. Christmas tea-parties and entertainments became an established feature of their activities, and were a rallying ground for the respective denominations. There was an element of rivalry in the two "camps," which was quite natural, and they keenly strove who could provide the best tea and entertainment. But there was a rare spirit of enjoyment in the preparations and celebrations, and they were much talked of before and after the event.

I was recently shown a letter written by a gentleman who resided in Earby sixty years ago and, referring to the Christmas festivities in which he took part as a youth, he said that he had never in the subsequent part of his life had such pure enjoyment and good fellowship as he experienced in those days.

There was no difficulty in getting a "full house" for those annual gatherings ; rather the difficulty was how to get the people in. On one occasion at the old Methodist chapel they gave a dramatised representation of the life of Moses, the "characters" being attired in Oriental dress, and this event created such a sensation that every inch of standing room was occupied.

Picked Bakeresses

With the increase in population and the building of the new schools these Christmas festivities were bigger events still. What tea parties they were ! All the provisions were "home made," and certain good housewives were always selected to bake the currant loaves, the seed bread, the queen cakes and the "cracklings." There were "sad cakes," which were warmed in the school kitchen oven, and so well buttered that the butter streamed down the face as they were being eaten. There were always plenty of ham and beef sandwiches and mince pies and cheese, in keeping with Christmas.

It was a great honour to be selected to be the carver of the meat, and who can forget Dick Demain and Billy Slater officiating in that capacity? And what a pleasing sight to look into the cutting up room and see the old ladies with their white caps and white aprons sitting in state!

The Christmas tea party was the village re-union. People who rarely saw one another during the year exchanged hearty greetings, and friends who had removed came home for the Christmas festivities. People didn't talk in whispers ; there was prevalent a spirit of joyful hilarity, and laughter rang out again and again. We shall never see the like again. The entertainments were great events in those days. They were usually a combination of a religious meeting and a popular entertainment. Usually a superintendent of the Sunday School presided, and he was supported by other prominent workers in the school. The Chapel Choir was also accommodated on the platform, which presented an imposing appearance. The programme included two or three addresses, musical items and an abundance of recitations winding up with a dialogue, generally one of Walkers Yorkshire Dialogues.

Earby people have always been good at amateur drama and opera, and this originated and was fostered by dialogues at these entertainments. Who that were there, can never forget "Tit for Tat," " Muddles at Home make Husbands Roam," "Wild Oats," and "Uncle Grumps the Grumbler?" From beginning to end there was keen interest, which was often very intense during the dialogue part of the entertainment.

Midnight Band Music

The brass band, ever since its formation, has been associated with our observance of Christmas. But there was far more enthusiasm fifty years ago when the band turned out to play as the clock struck twelve on Christmas morning. They met at the old Institute, and took up their places ready to strike up at the instant the signal was given. "Nah, then, chaps," Will Rushton would say, "get ready," and "Tinklo" would bang the drum, the air was rent with the strains of "Hail, smiling morn" and they would follow with "While Shepherds" to the old tune ; and how they could play it! There was some "glory" in their playing. (Really it is enough to make the old bandsmen turn in their graves to hear some modern bands play the simplest "common metre" tune for "While Shepherds"). And for the next week or two there was some grand Christmas music played in every street. There was plenty of Christmas singing by the two choirs, and they made the welkin ring with their melodious strains. They did the thing thoroughly, and practised well beforehand. It wasn't a case of singing a verse or two, and then "off we pop," but they had a fine repertoire of suitable music. They were frequently successful in raising good sums of money for chapel purposes. And how hospitably they were received and entertained! These experiences stand out in the memory of very many who were privileged to enjoy them. And there are many amusing incidents associated with these experiences. One recalls going out to Oak Slack Farm when Jerry Aldersley lived there, and the snow inches deep in the fields, and singing to an old horse in the fold (the inmates of the house were all away from home.) Also singing at Throstle Nest, Thornton (when Mr. Hattersley lived there) at the front door - "Here's a health to all good lassies"- and they brought out glasses of beer for the choristers who were all "teetotal" except two of them.

The old Band of Hope and Temperance Society used to have a well-organised treat for the children on the first Saturday in the new year, which is well remembered by old Earby children now grown grey. The assembly room of the institute was a fine meeting place for such an event, and three hundred children made merry for four of five hours with great zest. And surely there never were such good, big buns as were provided on those occasions from Tom Hartley's at Barnoldswick, and the coffee made by Mrs. Demain and Mrs. Hudson tasted as no other coffee did. And how vividly does one recall the first Saturday in January, the 5th (exactly 45 years ago), 1884, when all was in readiness for the annual treat, and a terror-stricken cry ran through the village, "the mill's on fire!" and the buns and coffee were hasted away to refresh the men who, all in vain, were making superhuman efforts to fight the fire. That was the blackest New Year that Earby has ever known.

J.H.

- *The Craven Herald, Friday January 11th 1929*

Our Village

17th Article

An Earby Musical Family of Sixty Years Ago

I am largely indebted to Mr. Stephen Pickles, J.P., of Thornton-in-Craven, for interesting information relating to the Pickles families of Earby and Barnoldswick and their musical abilities and associations.

Referring to the last article on the Earby Brass Band and the contest at Salterforth in 1868, Mr. Pickles remembered it well, and it was the finest contest held in the district. A hand bill has been preserved by a Salterforth man, Mr. Crabtree, which announced that "A grand brass band contest will take place in the Aqueduct Field, Salterforth, on Saturday, May 9th, 1868. Prizes to be awarded : First prize. £4 4s and one "Star Jupiter" cornet, value £9 9s., of the highest class fabrication of the celebrated manufacturer, F. Besson, London, presented by the committee. Second Prize, £3 3s. : solo prize, £1 1s., for B flat cornets.

The programme gave the names of the bands in the following order (but the order of playing was to be decided by drawing lots on the field at 3-30, the contest to commence at 4 o'clock punctually) :-

- Barnoldswick Ribblesdale Band. Conductor, William Rushforth
- Earby Band (17 performers). Conductor, William Rushforth
- Barnoldswick Model Band (18 performers) Conductor, John Lord
- Kelbrook Band (18 performers). Conductor, W. Jasper.

The test piece selected by the committee was "Zauberflöte," by Mozart : but each band could select another piece, the first two choosing "Torquato Tasso" by Donizetti, and the last two "Semiramide," by Rossini.

For the solo prize, on B flat cornets, the test piece was " The Last Rose of Summer" (with variations) and the contestants were :

- Joseph Windle, Ribblesdale Band
- James Bailey, Earby Band
- Thomas Whittaker, Model Band
- John Wilkinson, Kelbrook Band.

The handbill contained at the foot the names of John Widdup, Thomas Turner, and Henry Edmondson, on behalf of the promoters of the contest. At the conclusion of the contest, prior to the decision of the judge, the united bands were instructed to play "God Save the Queen," and "any band refusing to join shall forfeit the prize which otherwise might be due."

The whole community for miles around was worked up to intense enthusiasm for the famous event, and there was an amazing crowd, considering the size of the population. The Barnoldswick people were divided into two hostile camps (and in addition to their local favourites, the Ribblesdale followers always "backed" Black Dyke and the Model supporters "backed" Bacup).

The Earby Band was undoubtedly the winner of the coveted first prize, the Model came next, followed by Ribblesdale and Kelbrook.

The Kelbrook solo cornet player was awarded the prize in that class.

A Practical Joke

The band contest was made the occasion of a practical joke, a form of enjoyment which was characteristic of the period, and took the form of impersonating the judge.

A plot was hatched at Clough Mill, Barnoldswick by Henry Slater, Sam Slater, Jim Slater, Stephen Edmondson and Stephen Pickles, senr. It was arranged that Stephen Edmondson, who was a handsome young fellow, should be disguised and appear at Salterforth a few hours before the contest and impersonate the judge. He was rigged up with a false moustache and beard, eye-glasses and an imposing attaché case. He was sent off to Foulridge Station on the Saturday morning, and took the train to Earby. When he arrived at Earby he assumed great dignity, and inquire in tones of importance whether any one was there from Salterforth to escort him. Eventually someone was found to accompany him to Higher Green Hill, the residence of the Rev. Richard Bell, a retired Congregationalist minister, who was to entertain the judge. Mr. Bell made profuse apologies for no one being present at Earby Station to meet the train, and gave him a very hearty greeting. He insisted that he should pull off his shoes and make himself comfortable. Then they had lunch, and Mr. Bell was very entertaining, talking all the time about the people of the district, and telling all the stories he could think of to enlighten his visiting guest, who could scarcely restrain himself from bursting into laughter.

But Stephen was getting alarmed, as the time for the contest was drawing near, and he made an excuse to leave the room and go outside. He put on his shoes, seized his hat and case, and ran "for his life" over the fields to Barnoldswick.

Mr. Bell went out to look for his guest, but he was not to be seen, and before long, to Mr. Bell's utter dismay, the proper judge arrived. Salterforth people, too, were highly displeased by the hoax, and for years after they taunted the offenders with eating the judge's lunch.

Some time after the contest Sam Slater and Stephen Edmondson called on Mr. Bell to apologise and explained that Stephen was the first "judge" to appear. "What, you, Stephen ! you Stephen ! Of all the young men in the world I should have thought of anybody but you."

A Long Walk

Mr. Stephen Pickles, senr., was born at Well House, in 1823. He removed to Earby in 1838, and stayed there until 1843. He worked as a weaver at Bracewell's Green End Shed, and he was working there when the Plug

Drawing Riots took place. He was pulling a piece off at the time the rioters entered the shed, and they would not allow him to finish pulling it off and take it into the warehouse.

Work was very irregular, and he removed to Burnley, then to Carleton, where he got married. He was a very good musician, both as an instrumentalist and vocalist. On one occasion when they were living at Carleton, he walked over the moors to Earby on the Sunday morning, picked up his cousin, Henry Pickles, with his 'cello, and walked on to Clitheroe Parish Church, to take part in a musical service (a performance of the "Messiah") and then walked back through Earby to Carleton on the Sunday night.

Henry Pickles (a cousin of Stephen Pickles), who kept a small grocers shop in Aspen Lane, Earby, was regarded as the most accomplished musician for miles around. His knowledge and love of music amounted almost to genius, and he had the ability in an uncommon measure of being able to impart musical knowledge to others, and train them to play various musical instruments. All the time he could spare was devoted to music, and when playing his favourite instrument, the 'cello, he timed himself with an old case clock. He had a passion for the best music, and for its performance in the best possible style.

An old friend of mine used to relate with great delight how he was taught to put expression into his playing. For his weekly lesson the youth was given "Vita Spark," and when he came to play it over the following week the old master took his 'cello and seated himself at the piano and playing with rhapsodic interpretation the Christian's triumph song. It was a lesson that could not be forgotten.

Henry Pickles had pupils who came from all parts of East Lancashire and the West Riding, and after he passed away in 1872 it was felt that some permanent memorial should be erected to his memory.

To secure the necessary funds a performance of the "Messiah" was given in 1873 in the Baptist Chapel, and it is no exaggeration to state that it eclipsed all oratorio performances given before or since in this district. Instrumentalists from nearly every town and village from Keighley to Burnley formed the orchestra and a choir of imposing dimensions from the chapels and churches in the district. It was such a spontaneous tribute to a worthy villager that it has never ceased to be talked about by those who were living at the time. The memorial took the form of a beautiful monument which was erected in Thornton churchyard.

John Pickles was a brother of Henry Pickles, and one of the leading men at the old Methodist Chapel. A class leader and superintendent of the Sunday School, he was beloved by all who knew him. He too, was an accomplished musician and not only played the 'cello, but acted as precentor. It was said of him that he never started a tune that the people couldn't sing, and they never had to stop for the tune to be pitched afresh.

Josiah Pickles, of Barnoldswick, another cousin of Stephen Pickles, gave a memorable instrumental entertainment with Henry Pickles in the old Mechanic's Institute in 1864. Josiah was a skilled player on the flute and piccolo, and later went to London, where his abilities as a flautist found worthy recognition. He was the first flautist to be engaged to play in the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas at the Savoy Theatre. He gave all his children a musical education, and to-day one of them is in the Glasgow Municipal Orchestra. .

J.H.

- *The Craven Herald, 26th April 1929*

Our Village

18th Article

Earby as a Musical Neighbourhood

Forty to fifty years ago there was a part of our village, always called "Top o' t' town," which was a notable musical colony. At this farthest end of the village main street there were little more than a dozen houses, half on one side the rest on the other. Almost every evening a wayfarer passing along this street would have arrested by hearing harmonious strains issuing from these cottages. All kinds of instruments were brought into action - pianos, American organs, violins, violoncellos and numerous brass instruments - and these were supplemented by vocalists of a creditable order.

Going up the street, in the second house of a row of four lived Vandeleur Wilkinson with a family of about ten children, mostly sons. As a businessman he was known over a large radius, as he and his brother Henry ran the bobbin mill at Booth Bridge between Earby and Thornton, and his sons were engaged with them in the business. After the death of the senior partners the family removed to Heysham, where a modern sawmill was erected for their business.

The eldest son, Harry, was a pupil teacher in the Wesleyan Day School, and as a young man became H.M. Inspector, and has had a very honourable career. Vandeleur, the father, was an enthusiastic player on the violin, and the father's passion was inherited by Herbert, one of the younger sons. As a youth he was a brilliant player and often appeared at local concerts to the great delight of his admirers. He later went to Germany to improve his musical culture, and he has since been engaged at Morecambe during the summer seasons. Jack, Alfred and Charlie were band musicians in the palmy days of the Earby Brass Band.

Next door to the Wilkinsons there lived William Turner, always known as "Tinker." He was a foreman tackler at Bracewell's new weaving shed, and three of his sons became tacklers too - Joseph, Tommy and James. A grandson, Walter, the son of Tommy, is also a tackler, and the late chairman of the Urban District Council. Tommy was a prominent member of the Earby Band, and played the biggest bass instrument, which corresponded to his size. Two other sons, Levi and James, were players on the organ and tenor singers. Thirty years ago James was in much request, along with his friend, Virgil Crowther, a famous bass singer of those days. Levi has been the choir master at the Baptist Chapel for about twenty years, and his daughter, Millicent, is a brilliant violinist, a pupil of Arthur Catterall, and has appeared at concerts in Lancashire and Yorkshire with the best musical talent in the country. Another member of the family, a grandson, John Smith, is the talented organist at the Baptist Chapel.

"Little Bill Hartley"

But the outstanding musical family at the top of the town was undoubtedly that of William Hartley. He lived in the middle of the row of houses on the opposite side of the road. William was rather diminutive in stature, and to distinguish him from another William Hartley, who was also a musician, he was called "Little Bill Hartley." At an early age he was employed in the village cotton mill as doffer, but at the same time he started to learn music, and to play the piano. His teacher was that highly-gifted man, Henry Pickles, who devoted all the time he could spare from serving in the grocer's shop in Aspen Lane to teaching music in the house adjoining. The teacher was so pleased with his promising pupil that he used to take him to surrounding churches where he was much in demand.

His first appointment as organist was at Kelbrook Church when he was nineteen years of age. About that time there was a school for gentlemen's sons at Hague House between Kelbrook and Foulridge, conducted by Mr. Tunnicliffe. The master of this academy was much interested in music and always brought the boys down to Kelbrook Church and to concerts at Earby. He afforded the young organist all possible encouragement, which was very acceptable.

Having played occasionally at the Baptist Chapel, William Hartley was engaged as choirmaster and organist, and he remained in that capacity over thirty years. A striking evidence of Mr. Hartley's musical enthusiasm is manifest in the names he gave to his children, such as Handel, Haydn, Novello, Lloyd, Halle.

To improve his playing the young organist went to Broughton to take lessons from Mr. Skippings, who was the organist at the Hall Chapel. At that time he was also a member of the Earby Band, and played the second trombone. When the Earby Band appeared at Broughton sports Father Marshall saw the young organist, with whom he was quite friendly, and said : "I am sorry to see you with that instrument ; it will ruin you ; don't let me see you with it again."

Mr. Hartley entered upon a new career as a baker of oatcakes, muffins etc., and this gave him more time for music. When he was on his rounds hawking bread and muffins, he was always thinking of music and how to give the best expression of any work he had in hand.

When the Earby Brass Band was very busy contesting it was not always possible to obtain professional conductors, and he was engaged from time to time to train the band for these events. He had to follow men like Birkenshaw, Gladney and Owen, but he had the glowing satisfaction of never appearing with the band without securing a prize, and at one memorable contest at Skipton the band under his leadership won four prizes. "But banding" he admitted "was hard work ; it was like leading a cow from Skipton market and trying to get it into a fresh shippon."

About forty years ago Mr. Hartley was mainly instrumental in forming the Orpheus Glee Union, which had a successful career for several years and won many prizes.

The "Creation"

A grand performance of Haydn's "Creation" is the greatest event in his musical career. This took place in the Earby Baptist Chapel on May 22nd, 1886. A poster which has been preserved, gives the following interesting particulars :- The principals were Miss Tomlinson (soprano), Bradford ; Mr. Paratt, principal tenor, Ripon Cathedral ; and Mr. Varley (bass), choirmaster of St. Peter's Church, Blackburn.

The chorus consisted of the Baptist and Wesleyan choirs, Earby, the Baptist and Wesleyan choirs from Barnoldswick, and members of the Skipton, Colne and Nelson Choral Societies. The orchestra was a very fine one, and included the Earby String Band, members of the Brass Band, assisted by friends from other places, as follows :-

First violins : Mr. Waddington (leader), Burnley ; Mr. Wilson, Birstall ; Messrs. V. Wilkinson, James Brown and W. Nutter, Earby ; second violins : Mr. Titherington, Colne ; Mr.P. Anforth, Burnley ; Messrs. John Brown, W. Windle and Herbert Wilkinson, Earby ; viola, Mr.H. Hargreaves and Mr.N.H. Smith Burnley ; 'cello, Mr. Hargreaves, Burnley ; Mr. Leach, Colne, and Mr. William Hartley, senr., Earby ; contra bass : Mr.J. Calderbank, Higham, and Mr.F. Windle, Earby ; flute, Mr.H. Thornton, Helles Band, and Mrs. Joseph Sephton, Earby ; clarinet, Mr.D. Seaman, Burnley, Mr. Bannister, Colne, and Mr.F.G. Turner, Earby ; cornet, Mr.W. Rushton, Mr John Cowgill, Earby, and Mr.Jas. Wormwell, Kelbrook ; tenor horn, Mr.W. Holmes, Earby ; baritone : Mr.W. Sephton, Earby ; tenor trombone, Mr.Rd. Bailey, Earby ; euphonium : Mr. Fred Wright, Earby ; harmonium, Mr. Peter Pickup, Burnley, and Mr.W.N. Berry, Kelbrook.

The event was a triumph of skill and perseverance, and was a most successful event. The orchestra practices for the occasion were held in the room over Mr. Hartley's bakehouse, and never was such music heard at the top of the town before or since.

The proceeds of the performance were towards a new organ, which was shortly afterwards installed in the Baptist Chapel by Driver and Haigh, of Bradford.

Mr. Hartley's service received a fitting recognition on December 17th, 1892, when he was the recipient of an illuminated address and a purse of gold. Mr. Hartley continued his association with the Baptist Chapel organ for some years, and when the Rev. Walter Wynn was the minister he asked the organist to choose the hymns as well as the tunes.

A Good Story

William was fond at times of using the heavy Bourdon stop on the pedal organ, which used to make the building vibrate. Mr. Wynn said to him one Sunday morning "William! whatever have you been doing this morning. The noise was like the tipping of a big load of potatoes!" William neatly turned the tables on Mr. Wynn a few weeks later after a sermon in which the pastor had been most dramatic in his manner. Going down to the minister's vestry at the close of the service he exclaimed : "Mr. Wynn, what ever made you carry on as you have done this morning? I never saw such antics." And, suiting the actions to the words, he gesticulated wildly with his hands and careered round the vestry in imitation of Mr. Wynn. It was always a dangerous experiment to try to score off William.

His Musical Son

Two of Mr. Hartley's sons, Handel and James, the eldest and the youngest, are professional musicians, and both are players and teachers of the 'cello : but it is the brilliant son, Lloyd Hartley, who has earned for himself and the family undying glory. As a young boy he gave promise of being an exceptionally talented artist, and before he learned music he could play pieces of music on the piano in different keys. That was how he acquired the art of musical composition in early life.

In his youth he was of a religious temperament, and he collaborated with an evangelist (Mr. Henry Powers), who was living in Earby at that time, in the production of an original hymn and tune book. The book contained sixty hymns composed by Mr. Powers, and the tunes were the product of Lloyd Hartley, with the exception of six composed by his father. One of the tunes was named "Kitchener," and a copy was sent to Lord Kitchener, who was so delighted with it he acknowledged it with a gift of a £5 note.

The words of the first verse of the hymn are :-

"Soldiers on the battle field,
With God's armour, sword and shield,
Though the foe be fierce and strong,
Conquer sin, subdue the wrong."

Lloyd went to London to continue his musical training, and after being with a German professor for a few years he studied under Tobias Mattay, under whom he made rapid development. Mattay was far in advance of the Germans in understanding of the technique of the piano, and Lloyd profited immensely from this expert knowledge. While he resided in London he became a member of Dr. Clifford's Church at Westbourne Park, and was baptised by him.

After the completion of his studies in London he settled in Leeds where he has been eminently successful with his recitals, and has established a good practice as a teacher. In association with Mr. John Dunn, the famous English violinist, he has given recitals in the north of England, and his own recitals at Liverpool and Manchester which received the highest praise from the music critic of the "Manchester Guardian."

It may be noted that the father, in his earlier years, received great inspiration from attending the performance of the world famed band and chorus conducted by Sir Charles Halle, in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

Mr. Hartley, now in his 84th year, after a few years residence with his son at Leeds, has returned to Earby where he resides with his son Novello Hartley in School Lane. When he takes a stroll through the village he delights to accost his old friends and recounts the happy experiences of the past years, and he is ever ready with a word of encouragement to young musicians.

Such a personal and family record should be a fine stimulus to all lovers of music in our village.

J.H.

- Craven Herald and Pioneer 27th September 1929

A Prominent Earby Cornettist

Sudden Death of Mr A. Laycock

Earby has lost a distinguished resident by the death of Mr. Arthur Laycock, a celebrated cornettist, which occurred at St. Austell, Cornwall, on Tuesday night. Mr. Laycock, who was in his 42nd year, was taken ill with pneumonia a week ago at St. Austell, where he was fulfilling an engagement. Although a native of Todmorden, he came to Earby at the age of 21, and since that time has always been associated with the district. He married an Earby lady, Miss M. Cowgill, daughter of the late Mr. W. Cowgill, and his home was in New Road, Earby.

Mr. Laycock rose from a member of the Earby Brass Band to be one of the leading instrumentalists in the country. When quite young he joined the Dalton-in-Furness Brass Band, and later became chief solo cornettist of the famous St. Hilda Colliery Band. At that time St. Hilda was at its best and carried away numerous Crystal Palace and other coveted awards.

Mr. Laycock had the honour of two Royal Command performances, and recorded extensively for gramophone companies. Latterly, he has been associated with the Eastbourne and Whitby Municipal Orchestras, and has been in great demand as a soloist in all parts of the country. The fact that he had attained a proud position in the sphere of brass band music did not diminish his interest in the place of his adoption. He was often engaged to play at concerts given by the Earby Band, and he was never happier than when conducting before some of his old colleagues. Mr. Laycock was the chief attraction at Earby Band's last concert held only a few weeks ago.

He leaves a widow, but no children, and the funeral will take place at Earby Cemetery on Saturday.

The Craven Herald Friday, February 8th, 1929

Echo of an Earby Double Wedding

Fiftieth Anniversary

Brother and Sister's Proud Achievement

There was surely no happier tea-table gathering than that in Earby on Wednesday in celebration of a unique event - the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of a local brother and sister, which took place simultaneously at Thornton-in-Craven Parish Church on April 10th. The parties were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Watson, and Mr. and Mrs. John Edmondson Wilkinson, of Whitehouse Farm, Earby. Mr. Wilkinson and Mrs. Watson are the brother and sister concerned. All four are hale and hearty and are able to carry out their daily work with energy that many a middle aged person might envy. Mr. Watson will be 70 next month, Mrs. Watson is 72, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson are 74 and 75 respectively. With the exception of Mrs. Wilkinson, who was born at Lothersdale, they are natives of the Earby district and are thoroughly familiar with its communal development.

A notable circumstance is that although there are altogether nine children and eleven grandchildren, there has been no death in the family. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have four sons and three daughters, while the other couple have one son and one daughter. They are all well known in the district, the eldest son, Mr. Edgar Watson, being one of the most successful poultry breeders in the North of England.

For the past forty five years Mr. Watson has been in business as a joiner and contractor and has carried out important public works in the neighbourhood, including the interior construction of the Earby Parish Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the United Methodist Sunday School, and the Conservative and Liberal Clubs. He is also interested in the cotton trade, being a director of the Earby Shed Company and the firm of Messrs. C.W. Bailey Ltd., Spring Mill, Earby. For many years he has been a prominent member of the Mount Zion Baptist Church and holds the position of Senior Deacon and treasurer, distinctions which also came to his father.

A 74th Birthday

Mrs. Watson and Mr. Wilkinson are the children of the late Mr. Joseph Wilkinson, whose forefathers farmed in the Earby district for nearly two centuries. The significance of Wednesday's anniversary was enhanced by the fact that it was Mr. Wilkinson's 74th birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, prior to taking over Whitehouse Farm, occupied Gusbill Farm, Earby, which had been in the possession of the family for many years. Mr. Wilkinson is still able to superintend the work of the farm, although he does not often go out in the colder weather. His wife was Miss Susannah Brown before her marriage, and came of a widely known Lothersdale family.

The wedding ceremony was performed by the late Canon Morris, and the party had to drive to the church in a modest vehicle drawn by a single horse. Only one of the witnesses survives, and he is Mr. J. Holgate (75), who still lives in Earby. In an interview with a Craven Herald representative, Mr. Watson expressed the view that marriage was a fine institution if only people made up their minds to pull together. Mr. Watson was educated at the Old Earby Grammar School, premises now occupied by the Earby branch of the Junior Imperial League, and also travelled on one of the first trains that ran between Earby and Barnoldswick.

Both couples have been the recipients of numerous congratulations, many in letter form, and the celebration tea party, which took place in the Baptist Sunday School, was a delightful affair.

- Craven Herald 12th April 1929

Electricity Will Be Here Soon

Reassuring News for Earby

Probable Cost of Current

"The electricity undertaking is a matter that has been delayed so long that people are beginning to take it with a pinch of salt when we tell them the supply is going to be here very soon," said the Chairman of the Earby Urban

District Council (Mr. J. Berry) at a monthly meeting of the Council on Wednesday evening. Those present, in addition to the Chairman, were Messrs. W. Atkinson, T. Payne, W. Turner, J. Judd, W. R. Graham, A. Oates, with the clerk (Mr. Ben Hindle) and other officials.

The Chairman said the construction of the overhead cables from Nelson to Barnoldswick and Earby was actually in progress, and they were informed the supply would be available in Earby in the course of two months. Already, the Council had approved a scale of charges which in his view, compared with many other districts, were very reasonable, and the prices should be an attraction to prospective electricity consumers. The public would have a supply as soon as it was turned on into the district and would be able to connect up straight away. With regard to connecting up the supply, the council had decided to make a concession in the cost of laying the cable through gardens and private land, to the extent of a maximum of 10s. The cost of the cable would be about 3s.6d. a yard, and the Council had decided that up to 10s. they would pay for the cable into the house. Beyond that sum the customer would have to pay, but in most cases three yards of cable - roughly obtainable for 10s.- would be sufficient. The concession only applied in cases where houses were connected up at the time the adjoining main cable was laid.

Mr. Turner thought the public in general did not understand a feature of the rate scale, based on 20 per cent. of the rateable value on scale "A" of the property occupier. If there was a better understanding there would probably be more consumers when the supply was available. "Certain rumours are going round the district that electricity is going to be dearer than gas," he said. He had tried to dispel that impression and had pointed out that the cost of lighting an ordinary cottage house by electricity would not be more than one shilling a week. He asked if he was justified in having made that statement.

The Chairman said the scheme worked out so that if the rateable value of a house was £10 a year - as it would be approximately in the case of a cottage house - the occupier or consumer would get the first 100 units at 1 1/4 d. a unit plus an annual charge of £2 (20 per cent. of the rateable value) which would bring it to 50s. a year. For a shilling a week the consumer would get ordinary lighting requirements from the first 100 units. It might be that a consumer wanted ordinary lighting requirements, but instead of, say, a fifty candle power light in his living room, wanted a 100 c.p. light. In that case he would get the extra fifty candle power at a rate of a penny a unit instead of 6d. One of the very appreciable points in this scheme of charges on the rateable value was the fact that all the current could go through one meter, and there was only one meter rent to pay. It was assumed that all units used in excess of 100 units would be for domestic power purposes. Although more than 100 units might be consumed for lighting purposes they would only be charged at the rate of a penny per unit in excess of the first hundred. The ordinary lighting requirements in the case he had cited as an example could be supplied with 100 units per year. All used in excess of that amount would cost the consumer a penny per unit.

Shilling a Week

Mr. Turner : It is an acknowledged fact amongst electricity users in other towns that for an ordinary house 1s. a week will practically cover the whole of the lighting requirements in the house.

Mr. Graham : The same will apply here will it not?

The Chairman : Yes. In the case of £10 a year as the rateable value, it works out at approximately one shilling a week.

Mr. Oates asked if anything had been with regard to the making up of Longroyd Road. "I should like to see it done before another year." he added.

The surveyor said plans were being prepared for the street works. "It must be borne in mind nothing could be done until the electricity cables were laid," he said.

The Chairman said the resolution to make up the street had definitely been passed by the Council and the reason the work had been delayed was due to the fact that they did not wish to make up the street and then have to tear it up again in order to lay cables along it. Furthermore, at the time the resolution was passed they had a great amount of other work on hand. He hoped they would be able to carry out the work in the way they had carried out other private street works in the district. "It will be a great satisfaction to people in that area to know that plans are being prepared and there is a prospect of the work being carried out," he added.

Mr. Hartley : Do I take it this work will be kept in the background until there is a demand in that district for electricity sufficiently to warrant the laying of a cable?

The Chairman : All the plans have to be made out and if the thing goes forward a few month are bound to elapse before we are in a position to make up the street. When it is on the point of being made up and the electricity undertaking is working - we believe a supply will be here in two months time - our own staff will be able to carry out the extension of the cable down Longroyd Road. That is assuming there is a reasonable demand and, judging from the number of enquiries for current we are hoping that it will be a district we shall be able to supply with a cable

A "Signing-On" Hardship

The provision of improved facilities for those from Earby who are drawing unemployment relief was a matter which engaged the attention of the Council for some time. The clerk stated in his unemployment returns for the month that there were 69 men, 65 women and two boys out of work, a total of 136. Five men and five women were also temporarily unemployed. The number of unemployed was greatly in excess of the figures going back over the past two years. Many outdoor workers - chiefly men, had been deprived of work through the frost, and the position was that although there was a large increase in the number of unemployed outdoor workers, there was a decrease in the number of unemployed indoor workers. As time went on, however, many of them would be absorbed.

Mr. Payne asked if better arrangements for "signing on" could not be made for Earby weavers. A scheme was in operation at one time whereby they could "sign on" in the town.

The Chairman explained that when that scheme was in force the arrangements were made through the Earby Weavers Association. The association lent a room free of charge to the Labour Exchange in order to give better facilities to weavers in the town.

Various efforts had been made before to get an office at Earby, but the Minister of Labour would not sanction one as they were within the prescribed radius of the Barnoldswick exchange. "So far as I understand," he said, "the exchange at Barnoldswick is not permitted to spend any money in the district on office equipment. It does look rather hard that people have to go to the inconvenience and expense of signing on at Barnoldswick when probably arrangements could be made to do it here. I am quite favourable to a proposal that enquiries should be made to see if anything can be done with regard to improving matters for the people who, unfortunately, have to "sign- on".

The Smiths At Coolham

Mr. Edmondson remembered "Jim o'Jam's" family living at Coolham Farm. There was an elder brother called Michael, who looked after the farm mainly. At hay time they borrowed a horse from the White Lion Farm. Eventually they bought one, and Michael was highly proud as he drove the horse and cart up the steep Stoneybank Road. The horse, evidently, was unused to toiling up hill, and it "stalled." Do what he could Michael couldn't make the horse start again, much to the delight of the men in Stoneybank Quarry. So Michael addressed the horse in the following terms : "Na' tha't a bright 'un, coming to't Coolham for a bit o' haytime an' stalling wi' an empty cart!"

There was another brother named Jack, who was accustomed to roam about the hillside with a gun. Getting over a stile one day he stumbled : the gun exploded in his face and blinded him. His son "Jim o' Jack's," is still living in Stoneybank Road.

Better Facilities Urged

Mr. Turner agreed. At one time, he said, the Weavers Association were quite willing to lend the authorities an office. He understood that in the opinion of the Minister of Labour the provision of an office at Earby was considered unnecessary expense, "It is not a matter of unnecessary expense," he added ironically, "in the matter of wear and tear of shoe leather of the people who have to go to Barnoldswick." Whichever way the weavers went to Barnoldswick they had to spend money from their unemployment relief in getting to Barnoldswick to draw it. "I shall heartily support a resolution from this council to the Ministry of Health to see if it was not possible to get an office in this district.

The Chairman : Can we ask for improved facilities. It is against the regulations and they would probably point that out.

Mr. Payne said that of the troubles of the present system, apart from the question of expense, was that weavers often lost the opportunity of "sick work." It not infrequently occurred when an employer wanted an unemployed man or woman for "sick weaving," that when he sent he found he or she had left the Barnoldswick exchange.

Mr. Oates : That has happened at our place. When we have sent for weavers we have found they have left soon after breakfast for Barnoldswick.

Mr. Turner thought it was not equitable that weavers should lose half a day from home, or the chance of work, through having to go to Barnoldswick.

Mr. Oates : I cannot see why they should not send a man here to the Weaver's Institute or some other office.

The Chairman : There is this much to be said about signing on at Barnoldswick. It is only twice a week and that is a concession. They are excused signing on Mondays. Barnoldswick people have to sign on every other day.

On the motion of Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Payne, it was decided to write to the Ministry of Labour asking for better facilities.

Water Engineer's Difficulties

The Water Engineer, Mr.H. Prichard, in his report to the members of the Water Committee, stated that during March, the Bleara Moor Reservoir had gradually lost ground and the water level had been 6 feet below the overflow weir at the end of the month. The yield at the inlet had been gauged at 34,286 gallons per day, whilst the consumption had been approximately 45,000 gallons per day. The Kelbrook reservoir had been only a foot down at the same date in spite of the fact that portion of Earby which lay between the station and the New Road had been supplied from Kelbrook. It had been only by the exercise of great vigilance and judicious apportionment of the Council's several sources that a regular supply had been maintained.

The number of bursts on the Council's mains for the month had been six, and there had also been numerous bursts on service pipes. Private meters had been damaged by the frost. In conclusion, Mr. Pritchard pointed out that the rainfall for the month was only 0.92 in., as compared with 2.84 in. for the corresponding period last year. The total rainfall for the last three months had been only 3.27 in. as compared with 19.03 for the first three months of last year. The statistical report showed that the yield at Old Spring Well during the month had been 718,166 gallons, and at Bleara Moor Reservoir 591,000 gallons, making a total of 1,309,166 gallons as against 3,708,000 gallons the preceding month.

Farm Improvements Necessary

That during the month the whole of the farms within the urban area had been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and the Veterinary Officer of the West Riding County Council was reported at the meeting of the Health Committee. It was stated that, as a general rule, farm premises were not up to the required standard of cleanliness. Some of the properties required alteration and repairs. The Sanitary Inspector drew attention to the alterations needed on the Council's own farms. While accepting the report, the committee resolved that the Sanitary Inspector submit particulars of the necessary improvements to the committees in charge of the properties.

Earby's low birth rate in proportion to the mortality was the subject of special reference in the quarterly of the Medical Officer of Health (Dr.A. Falconer) who attended the meeting. Births totalled seven (two males and five females), equivalent to an annual birth rate of 4.6 per thousand, while there had been 35 deaths (ten males and 25 females), equivalent to an annual mortality of 23.3 per thousand. During the three months ended March 31st, 11 cases of scarlet fever had been reported, four cases having been removed to the Skipton Isolation Hospital. The type was very mild in most cases, and the district now appeared to be quite clear. Four cases of pneumonia and been notified, two cases of croup and one case of pulmonary tuberculosis. There had been a few cases of chicken pox and towards the end of the period they had been troubled with whooping cough. Much working time had been lost as a result of the influenza epidemic.

Owing to the severe cold and dry weather since the end of January chest complaints had been aggravated and many elderly people had succumbed.

- Craven Herald 26th April 1929

Church School Barnoldswick History (1)

A Fifty Years Old School

Link with Barnoldswick's Early Days TEACHER'S LONG SERVICE

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Church School, Barnoldswick, a special edition of "The National," the School magazine has been published under the direction of Mr. H. Belshaw, the present headmaster. Largely devoted to articles and notes bearing upon the history of the School, the magazine contains a vast amount of useful information and makes excellent reading. The centre page includes a brief statistical survey by Mr. Alban Atkinson an "old boy" and a manager of the School for many years. Mr. Atkinson writes as follows :- "The Church School, built in 1883, at a cost of £1,800, was opened in January, 1884, by Mr. A. Pollard (headmaster) with a staff of one. The scholars came from the Unity Boys' School, now the 'Brick School,' and used as a workshop, and from the Wesleyan Girls' and Infants' departments. The scholars numbered 114 during the first week, but this number had increased to 250 by the month of April. The School building was cleared from debt by a bazaar and Japanese fair in May, 1884, opened by Mrs. Roundell, of Gledstone Hall, supported by Mr. G. S. Roundell, M.P., and presided over by the Rev. T. Hayes. At the foot of the bazaar programme is the quaint notice :-

'A LATE train will leave Barnoldswick at 8-15 p.m.'."

This section of the magazine also contains extracts from the School log book, viz :- February 10th, 1884-"The following resolution has been passed by the managers of this and of the Wesleyan Schools: 'That no child shall be received into the school who is in arrears with school fees of the one he is leaving.' March 27th, 1884-Had a concert in aid of materials for the infants. 10th July, 1885-Comment by His Majesty's Inspector: 'Mr. Pollard had made a vigorous and successful beginning in establishing this new school. 16th October, 1885- commenced having fires in the School."

A TEACHER'S MEMOIRS

From the pen of Mrs. M. Allum, the oldest teacher, who has been on the staff 34 years, comes a delightful article entitled "The Old Order Changeth." "Many changes have taken place at the Church School since I commenced there in 1889," writes Mrs. Allum. "At that time, the managers were Messrs. Atkinson, Perry, Duckworth, Shorrock and the Rev. F. W. Patten, while Mr. A. Pollard was headmaster.

"The large schoolroom then had no partitions and teaching in that room was very difficult. All the children were seated in the old-fashioned long benches, which were neither comfortable nor healthy. To-day, the comfort and health of the child is considered in every way, as can be seen by the chairs and table now in use. In those days the School closed at 4-30 p.m. . A teacher's chair was an unknown thing in those times- now every room boasts one. Slates and pencils were commonly used by the children- another unhealthy method of writing now entirely obsolete. The slates, however, were occasionally useful; I well remember using one with success as a missile aimed at a mouse!

"Years passed by and the time came for the retirement of our well-respected schoolmaster. I am indebted to him for many things I learnt during his headship. He was succeeded by Mr. Gregson who stayed with us about three years. Just about this time Standard 1 became part of the Infants' School, so each member of the staff was transferred to the class above.. It was a very big change for some of us, but we soon adapted ourselves to the new circumstances. "Fortunately, our third headmaster, Mr. Belshaw, is still with us, after about eight years, and during that period we have become quite a modern school, with its annual concert, sports day and last but not least, the 'National.'

"We all hope that the School will enjoy many more years of prosperity under his rule."

WHAT FATHER SAYS!

A racy article headed "School when my father attended" is contributed by Jennie Widdup, of Standard VIII., and reproduced below :

"Schools of to-day are not what they were when I attended, said my father. 'There were no free feeds and milk and biscuits. The only feeds we got were from Miss Waite- if we behaved ourselves.' Sometimes if we complain

to him about getting the cane he will laugh and say it is nothing. One day he related one of the many stories about his school life. He said he once had to go to Crabtree's for a cane for Mr. Turner. On returning he was told to hold his hand out. Quite amazed, he did so and Mr. Turner gave him a good one, 'it's all right, Widdup,' he said, 'I only wanted to see if it was a good one.'

"They never needed a doctor at the Church School for if ever a child in the infant class got a bead up its nose my father could always get it down.

"He can also remember snowballing the Rainhall Road scholars. He said the Rainhall boys would chase them to the Church School gates and then my father and his friends would turn round and have a hand to hand fight. 'This,' he said, 'very often caused trouble for we always got the cane from Mr. Pollard.'

"When talking to my aunty she told me a short story of the first time she went to school. 'When I first entered the classroom I thought it was a circus, for the seats were raised one above another and wooden steps ran up the side. In the higher classes I can remember being in a concert. We were all dressed up in white frocks. Round our waists we wore big blue sashes tied at the back in a huge bunch. Our item was called 'Ten Little Niggers.' We girls were on the front row and five boys were behind. One of the boys would persist in touching my frock with his black hands, which were covered with soot. I forgot about the audience-I was thinking about my frock.' Then without a moment's hesitation she turned round and smacked his face.

"I then asked my aunty if she remembered anything else, and she told me this rather funny story. 'One day the teacher was putting books in the cupboard. On turning round she espied a girl talking in the corner of the room. This teacher always ran across the room, but that day she got a shock, for her feet caught the blackboard, which came on top of her. The girl didn't get the cane, anyhow," said aunty. 'You girls are lucky,' she said, 'to be going up to the Park playing hockey. We had to work hard if we only, wanted to get home soon. School in these days is not half so stern as it was.' "

OLD BARLICK

An account of Barnoldswick as it was 50 years ago appears above the initials "N.H.A." "When the School was opened," states the writer, "Barnoldswick was very different from the town of to-day. Its population of about 6,000 was isolated from the, outer world, save for the single-line railway opened some 13 years before. "The now delightful Park Road-then generally called 'Blue Pot Lane'-was a country path leading to 'Shutt's Farm' and Park Fields. From Wellhouse Street, save for New Laithe Farm, Long Ing Lane wended its way to Raikes Back, with hawthorn hedges on each side, but no houses-beautiful in summer, but a veritable quagmire in winter, through which one steered one's way at night by the aid of a welcome lantern.

Water, like gas, was also a luxury, wells in or near the town supplying that for household purposes, whilst that for drinking was brought by water-carts from the moorland springs and wells and sold at a halfpenny a bucket. The raintubs, varying in size, of which every house had one, formed a noticeable feature, unsightly perhaps, but very necessary.

"We can scarcely conceive life under these conditions, but they were met very philosophically. Then, as now, Barlick folk made the best of things, and with the beginning of better times in the cotton trade, the village gradually assumed larger proportions and, the modern amenities of life followed in their, turn."

A YOUTHFUL POET

Last, but by no means least, is a poem, called "Our School," the work of Alan Frankland, Standard VI.

Our School has stood for fifty years
And yet it still goes strong,
'Tis here we mingle fears and fun
With tear or smile or song.

It's called the Church of England School,
And though not very pretty,
There's not a more successful one
In village, town or city.

On games field or in classroom,
Our School leads all the rest:

At History, Sums and Football
We surely are the best.

And as the future years roll on,
We'll all recall with pride
The things the Old School's done for us

- Craven Herald Friday December 29th 1933

EARBY FREE CHURCH HISTORY (PART 1)

There are probably very few places of its size in England, which have had such a remarkable experience as Earby in the matter of religious ministrations. From time immemorial the village community had been under the pastoral care of the Rector of Thornton, but the Parish Church was at least one and half miles distant, and no attempt appears to have been made to provide for church services until near the end of the Nineteenth Century.

This lack of facilities for public worship and religious fellowship provided a suitable opportunity for other denominations to enter the field.

In the history of the Dales Congregational Churches, in the section dealing with Horton-in-Craven, it is recorded that in 1698 two houses in Earby, occupied by Sarah Coates and Daniel Parker, were registered for public worship, or meeting places, under the Act of Toleration, 1689. It is clear that there were some devout, souls of that period in Earby who were associated with the group of infant churches which embraced Horton, Pasture House Farm, and Marton Scar.

The Rector of Thornton at that time (Edmund Hough, D.D., Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge) was very friendly to the "Dissenters," as they were then styled.

About the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, a good number of men and women had identified themselves with the Baptists, the majority of them walking over the hills, to Barnoldswick for worship, and a few to Cowling Hill. The time arrived when this small band considered themselves strong enough to form a separate church, and they accordingly made their views known to their fellow worshippers. The Barnoldswick Church strongly contested the claim of the Earby members, and gave their reluctant consent only when their opposition proved unavailing.

The Dismissal

The resolution of dismissal, as recorded in the Bethesda Church minute book, is in the following terms: -

"It give us great pain to say that in opposition to all our advice, and in plain violation of our solemn church covenant, you have forcibly left us as a church, with which we are very much dissatisfied. Yet we exercise forbearance, and give up your names, and leave you to the disposal of Him who doeth all things well. Signed by us for the rest,

N. Smith; Henry Bracewell;
Wm. Starkie; John Dean;
James Starkie; James Whitaker.
"Liberty with disapprobation !" .

The names of those "dismissed" included John Windle, William Wilkinson (senior), William Wilkinson (junior), Thomas Reddihough, Caleb Wilkinson, Nancy Turner, Joseph Holdsworth, Isabel Turner, Margaret Whitaker, Hartley Windle, Betty Windle and Phillis Wilkinson.

The first communion of the newly-formed Baptist Church was held on Good Friday, 1819, in a cottage, 25 persons being present (13 females and 12 males). The first pastor to the oversight of the church was William Wilkinson, and for 30 years he exercised a very gracious influence in the village, not only upon the members of his own flock, but upon all the community. He was the best educated man in the neighbourhood, and his concern for the welfare of the young people of the village led him to start a Day School and also night classes, which were

held in an attic belonging to his house. His allowance was only £10 at first, and he supplemented his stipend by hand-loom weaving.

In two "years' time, the church prospered to such an extent that a chapel was built in Gravel Pit Road (Grelpit), which is now designated Red Lion Street. To obtain funds for the chapel Mr. Wilkinson walked to London and back, preaching at Baptist chapels on the way. The opening services took place on Good Friday, 1821. . The interior of the building was not completed at the opening, and many of the people were seated on logs of wood and bags of sawdust and shavings, but any inconvenience was discounted by the enthusiasm displayed by the crowded congregations.

A Venerable Figure

The special preachers for the event were the Rev. Nathaniel Walton, of Cowling Hill, and the Rev. Nathan Smith, of Barnoldswick, the latter being an object of distinction and veneration with his long silvery hair, swallow tail coat, knee breeches and buckled shoes. A few years later, a house for the minister was built adjoining the chapel, at the entrance to the chapel yard.

The first pastor of the Earby Baptist Church was a faithful and conscientious shepherd of the flock, and the entries he made in the minute book of the church furnish ample evidence of his solicitude. Here are a few examples: -

Oct. 2nd, 1819.-Celebrated Lord's Supper: all present.
April 2nd, 1820.-ditto, Phillis Wilkinson absent through sickness.
Oct. 7th, 1821.-"We had communion with the Lord and one another."
"Had comfortable communion on Dec. 2nd, 1821. We went out into the Mount."

Other entries have an element of humour about them: -

"Jane Reddihough absent in consequence of not being at home. John Watson absent through distance. Harriet Edmondson absent through the wetness of the day. George Smith absent through mistake." April 10th, 1831:-
"E.S. absent mostly for causes unknown, and it is to be feared unjustifiable."
Dec. 3rd, 1837:-"M.H. absent because she had quarrelled with her husband."
Feb. 11th, 1838: - "J.W. and his wife absent because they had flit."

In the record of the church for twenty years, the life of the church seems to have centered in the communion services and preaching.

For fully thirty years, until 1849, Mr. Wilkinson held the pastorate, and through very difficult times and amid extreme poverty, he kept the church together and was rewarded by its steady growth and beneficial influence. His name is still "as ointment poured forth," and in the early annals of our village, for his sterling character and unselfish service, he occupies the supreme place of honour.

The Rev. Richard Heaton succeeded to the pastorate, which he held for a term of four years down to 1853, and his ministry was effective in securing the further prosperity of the church. He was much beloved by his people, but his life was cut short in the midst of his labours.

With the advent of the Rev. J. M. Ryland, in 1854, the church was stimulated to fresh endeavours, which culminated in the erection of the new chapel in 1861. Mr. Ryland was the first minister who had received a collegiate training. He was a Christian gentleman with high ideals, and devoted to the service of the church.

A New Chapel

The crowded congregations necessitated a new venture, and with splendid courage and self-sacrificing devotion, the people undertook the erection of the imposing and commodious chapel in the centre of the village, which was at that time one of the finest village chapels in Craven.

The purchase of the site was fraught with much anxiety for the leaders of the church, but their fears vanished like mist before the morning sun when they went to interview the owner, Mr. Thomas Riley. The deputation was courteously received by Mr. Riley, and after they had made their request and asked for his terms he replied, rather abruptly, "Oh, I shan't hurt you." But as they had to report on their return home, the request was made for a definite price to be named. "Well, will 10s. hurt you?" Mr. Riley rejoined. The visitors were staggered by the

landowner's generosity. When the formal transfer of the land took place Mr. Riley refused to accept the half-sovereign, saying, "That is my contribution to the building fund."

Having received such heartening support, the congregation made strenuous efforts to carry the scheme forward to a gloriously successful result. The ground was rough and uneven and in one part there was a small quarry, and hundreds of loads of material had to be removed, and this was done by voluntary labour.

J. H.

[To Be Continued]

- Craven Herald, July 28th, 1933

written by J.Hartley. From a collection of newspaper cuttings made by J.Hartley kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

EARBY FREE CHURCH HISTORY (PART 3)

Mr. Wynn's Memorable Pastorate

I have been enabled to glean a few more items of interest relating to former members of the Earby Baptist Church.

Mr. William Crowther, who kept a general dealer's shop at the bottom of Stoneybank Road, was a stalwart supporter of the cause. In his advanced age he retired from business, and built a substantial residence below the old chapel yard. When he passed away he bequeathed all his possessions for the benefit of the poor, together with the conversion of the old Methodist Chapel into three dwelling houses for aged poor women, and provided an endowment fund.

Mr. Thomas Turner, who was a butcher and had a shop in Water street, which is now in the occupation of his grandson. Mr. Francis Turner, was a very fine character. He served the Church as a deacon, and was particularly helpful as a Sunday School teacher and superintendent. Many old Earby people will remember his two sisters, Agnes Turner and the late Mrs. James Brown, elect ladies indeed, and the very embodiment of the Christian virtues.

William Wilkinson, the first pastor, was the great-grandfather of the late William Wilkinson, chairman of the Urban District Council, and also of the late Mr. John. Wilkinson (through a Wilkinson marrying a Wilkinson) who was a former Mayor of Nelson, and a manufacturer at Nelson.

Rev. Walter Wynn

Just over forty years ago, the Earby Baptist Church entered upon a new era through the advent of a new pastor, the Rev. Walter Wynn. For twelve years the pastorate had been vacant, and Mr. Wynn, who had been at Sandy Lane Church, Bradford, for a few years, received an invitation to supply the pulpit at Mount Zion for the last three months of 1892. He came; he saw; he conquered. From the beginning of his association with Earby, he seemed to cast a spell over many of the people, and the influence he exerted upon them abides to this day.

The circumstances were exceedingly favourable to a man of his romantic nature and sparkling gifts. There was a commodious chapel and a fine school, free of debt; a loyal and well-disciplined band of church members; a sturdy set of church leaders and deacons; the tide of temporal prosperity was returning to the village, and the population was increasing. Before the three months had expired Mr. Wynn received an enthusiastic request to accept the pastorate, which he eagerly accepted.

In a few weeks the chapel was filled every Sunday evening, and the morning services were largely attended. There was glorious congregational singing, and the fervour of the services was thrilling. Mr. Wynn could not endure the narrow pulpit, and a new rostrum had to be provided for him, so that his dramatic powers could have free play. He and the crowded congregations perspired freely, so a new lighting and ventilation system was installed, and the whole premises were renovated. There was a wonderful outburst of generosity, and the delighted pastor was freely granted whatever he desired.

Coincident with this outward display, there was a real spiritual revival, and the pastor conducted an evangelistic mission in the schoolroom, which resulted in many enquirers being enrolled and prepared for membership in the church.

There were people of all ages, many young people, but some too who were well advanced in life, who joined the fellowship of the church, and baptismal services were frequent. During that year the membership rose from 34 to 208.

A Church Magazine

Shortly after the commencement of his settled pastorate, Mr. Wynn started the publication of a monthly magazine, which was distributed free to every house in the village and the venture was continued for a few years. The magazine contained sermons by the pastor and accounts of the church's activities, but also included reports of the other Free Churches in Earby, Barnoldswick, Kelbrook and Salterforth, and announcements of their services. There were also articles by eminent writers and preachers, and reports of the Craven Association of Baptist Churches.

When entering upon the second winter of his residence in Earby, Mr. Wynn initiated a series of men's meetings, which were held at 8 p.m. on Sunday evenings in the Assembly Room of the Victoria Institute. These meetings, which were held in the winter months, had a successful run for a few years, and were supported and attended by many who were not associated with the Baptist Church. The services of various people were requisitioned for addressing the meetings, and a popular visitor was the Rev. J. S. Griffiths, at that time pastor of the Belmont Baptist Church, Skipton, who later entered the ministry of the Church of England. Mr. J. R. Birkenshaw, of Bradford, was a frequent visitor, and was always gladly received. But the mainstay of the meetings was Mr. Wynn himself, and his addresses on Carlyle's "Heroes and Hero Worship" were very fine indeed. Occasionally, there were "open" meetings for the general public, when the room was crowded. The singing of Sankey's hymns was a special feature of these gatherings.

With an infusion of new blood into the life of the church, it is not surprising that changes were made in the diaconate and the administration of the Sunday school, which were not favoured by the older section of the members.

The manner in which some of the old church leaders were treated caused much displeasure, and as many of the older members were seriously offended there were frequent abstentions from the "monthly ordinance." The climax was reached when an intimation was sent to the absentees that if they continued to absent themselves from the "ordinance" they would be regarded as having ceased to be members of the church, and this was regarded as amounting to ex-communication.

Following this drastic action, about sixty members and adherents with their families withdrew from association with the Mount Zion Church, until the conditions were favourable for their return. In the meantime, they maintained a connection with each other, and remained as members of the Baptist communion, but on the Sabbath Day they worshipped at the Wesleyan Chapel. Some of the leaders assisted in the conduct of divine Worship occasionally, and worked in the Sunday school.

A School Board Education

With the increase of the population in the early "nineties," following the erection of the Albion Shed and the restarting of the Victoria Mill and weaving shed, further provision was necessitated for the elementary education of the children of the village. A School Board was decided upon at a ratepayers' meeting, and into this movement Mr. Wynn threw himself with characteristic abandon. He was nominated as a candidate at the first election of the Board, and was elected, being fourth on the list of the successful candidates, the others elected being the Rev. L. B. Morris, M.A. (rector of Thornton-in-Craven Parish Church), Mr. John Hartley (Kelbrook), Mr. G. P. Hartley and Dr. Hunter.

There was plenty of work to be done by the Board, two new schools being erected, one at Kelbrook and one at Earby; the staffs were to engage and a syllabus of religious instruction to be adopted. There were many verbal combats, but in spite of some differences of opinion good spirit prevailed, and it is to the lasting credit of all concerned that the religious instruction syllabus prepared by the Rector who was the chairman of the Board, was heartily and unanimously adopted.

At the second election of the Board, in 1897, the same members were re-elected, Mr. Wynn being second, with Dr. Hunter at the top of the poll. When the first meeting of the re-elected Board was held at the New Road

School, in public, for the election of the chairman a long pause ensued before any member would propose a chairman. Mr. Wynn and Dr. Hunter thought the member at the head of the poll ought to be appointed chairman, but the other members did not favour a change. The members sat and looked at each other in silence, and occasionally smiled, and at last the tension was broken by the nomination of Mr. Morris by Mr. John Hartley, seconded by Mr. G. P. Hartley, and Mr. Morris had to exercise his own vote to secure re-election.

During the discussion that took place, Mr. Wynn objected to the use of the word "spout" in reference to him by Mr. George Hartley, so the offending word was withdrawn and the word "prate" was substituted! Subsequently, Mr Wynn entertained the Board to a complimentary dinner at the Manse, and the guests were entertained during the evening by Master Lloyd Hartley, then a boy, and now organist at Leeds Town Hall.

Mr Wynn's Politics

In the local Parish Council and District Council elections, Mr. Wynn did not offer himself for nomination, but he had his nominees, and many interesting and exciting contests took place, and there was much correspondence in the local papers. The 1900 Parliamentary election took place while Mr. Wynn was at Earby, and he threw himself into the fray with heart and soul in support of Mr. F. Whitley Thomson. Being a Welshman, he was an ardent Radical, and he had in a marked degree the merits and the defects of that impulsive race.

While residing at Earby, Mr. Wynn published a book on "Social Inequalities," and also a book with the title, "A reply to Lord Halifax." He was the editor of the "Young Man," for a short time, after leaving Earby.

Mr. Wynn had a genius for social affability, and as he walked down the village or engaged in conversation with friends he had a cheery greeting for all. He was especially fond of a chat with Mr. James Brown, the village "grand old man," who kept a newsagent's shop in the centre of the village. He was also a popular member of the Victoria Institute, and revelled in a discussion with the members in the conversation room.

During their residence at Earby, Mr. and Mrs. Wynn suffered a grievous bereavement in the death of their son, Walter Ruskin Wynn, when he was nearly five years of age. The beautiful marble cross in Earby Cemetery is an abiding monument to Mr. Wynn's association with Earby. Mrs. Wynn was shy and retiring in disposition, but a very kindly lady, who won the esteem of all who knew her. Mr. Wynn retired from the pastorate in 1904, after an eventful twelve years, and accepted a call to a church at Chesham, Bucks. After a few years a rift occurred, and Mr. Wynn, in co-operation with some of the members who supported him, formed a new church, which was styled "The United Free Church." He remained the pastor of this church until last year, when he resigned, and the church has been admitted into the recently formed United Methodist Church. Mr. Wynn now devotes his time as a preacher to weekend and special engagements.

Later Pastors

In 1905, the church extended a welcome to the Rev. Richard Tallontire, of Manchester, and the choice was a very happy one. As a young man, Mr. Tallontire was well known in the Skipton district as an evangelist, being associated with the Primitive Methodist minister, the Rev. A. B. Carter. Within a few months, Mr. Tallontire was successful in restoring the unity of the church, and the old members were welcomed back to their old spiritual home. It is pleasing to note that the unity has been maintained in the subsequent years, and the church has had a prosperous career ever since.

The outstanding feature of Mr. Tallontire's ministry was the inauguration of the "Earby Brotherhood," which was a great power for good under his leadership. The membership of the church steadily increased under his vigorous and versatile ministry, and he endeared himself to all the church.

The Rev. C. W. Townsend succeeded to the pastorate in 1910. He was a special favourite with the young people, and during his term of service the Sunday school adopted the grading system, with a beginners and primary department. A fund was also started for the provision, of a new Primary School, which came to fruition in 1921, at a cost of £2,500.

Mr. Townsend is now the minister of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, one of the most influential places of worship in the city.

After a brief period without pastor, the Rev. W. A. Livingstone took up the charge in 1915, and during the difficult war years he rendered very effective service; and the same tribute is deservedly due to his successor, the Rev. J. W. Derwent, who was the minister from 1918 to 1920.

In the following year, the Rev. J.W. Townsend was invited to become pastor, this being his first charge. The young minister was acceptable to all, and during his Earby ministry he laid the foundation of what promises to be a distinguished career. Mr. Townsend is now the minister at Ebenezer Church, Burnley.

After taking up his residence at Burnley, Mr. Townsend was married to Miss Gertrude Bailey, second daughter of the late Mr. C. W. Bailey, J.P.

In 1926, the Rev. Joseph Tinker received a call to Earby, and no minister in the history of the Church has rendered more valuable service. He is a splendid "all round" man, of sound judgment and clear vision, with true understanding of the times. Mr. Tinker is supported by a loyal band of workers and, notwithstanding serious losses by death, the church goes forward in strength and gracious influence.

Earby Cemetery

In closing this record, mention should be made of the fact that the Earby Cemetery owes its existence to the enterprise of the Baptist Church. When it was opened in 1887, there was no burial place in the village, and the cemetery has been provided by the trustees of the church. It is a credit to the church, and a public benefaction for which Earby people are truly grateful.

J.H.

- Craven Herald, July 13th, 1934

written by J.Hartley. From a collection of newspaper cuttings made by J.Hartley kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

A Rousing Jubilee Celebration

Old Scholars Honours First "Head"

Striking evidence of the affection that dwells in the hearts of past teachers and scholars was afforded on Saturday on the occasion of the Barnoldswick Church of England School's jubilee celebrations. To the very day, it was the 50th anniversary of the school's beginning, January 6th, 1884. The festivities were on a much larger scale than those originally designed, but, thanks to the adaptability of the organisers, the whole affair ran smoothly.

The first stage consisted of a tea party in the main hall of the school and this lasted from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Four sittings were required to accommodate the 400 guests, and in order that the intervals might not seem wearisome, the officials turned the remainder of the school into a series of smoke rooms and conversation lounges. Many people had travelled long distances to take part in the celebrations and the true re-union spirit prevailed. An appetising meal was served by Misses S. and J. Hacking and their staff.

Subsequently, there was a social gathering in the Queen's Hall, which was filled almost to capacity. Speeches full of interesting reminiscences, presentations for long and valued service, and a variety of musical items combined to make the evening a most enjoyable one.

An ideal chairman was Mr. R. S. Windle, a former scholar, who enlivened the proceedings by his ready wit and topical humour. "It was a very happy thought of the managers of our dear old school to bring us together on this occasion," said Mr. Windle. "This afternoon we had an opportunity of meeting many old friends, and I am sure there is no gathering in the world that could have brought so many of us together as the jubilee of the school. I want to extend to you all a most hearty welcome."

THE FIRST SCHOLARS

Fifty years was a large slice out of anyone's life, and he was sure those who had recollection of the opening of the Church School must feel thankful to God for sparing them to be present on that occasion. In the early days when names were being enrolled for the new school, the headmaster, Mr. Alfred Pollard, would have seen, had he looked up from his desk, two boys "scrapping" to decide which was to be first on the register. One of those boys was David Mitchell and the other was Robert Windle. (Laughter.) "I was not much of a 'scrapper,'" added the speaker, "but I think I was a bit better than the other boy; at any rate my name went down first. (Laughter.)"

Perhaps the reason was that Mr. Pollard knew my name because I had been one of his scholars at Salterforth School before coming to the Church School at Barnoldswick."

He felt it would be remiss of him if he failed on behalf of the old scholars to pay a tribute to their dear, respected old schoolmaster. (Applause.) The schoolmaster only sowed the seed; as the twig was bent the tree was inclined. A great deal depended on oneself if the tree was to be properly watered and grow to maturity. Nevertheless 'the part played by the schoolmaster in the training of a child was a big one, and he was glad to acknowledge the help and inspiration he had received from his old headmaster. He thought no tribute more fitting could be paid to Mr. Pollard than that contained in the words Pope spoke of his friend, Addison :-

He was a soul sincere,
In action faithful and in honour clear.
Who sought no title; served no private end;
But did his duty, and he never lost a friend.

The speaker's advice to parents was :- "Never be afraid of spending money on your children's education You are giving them something which, in after years, money can't buy," he declared. "Apart from a knowledge of various subjects, schools teach us the difference between right and wrong, and probably that fact has kept a great many of us out of gaol." (Laughter.) If they carried out the simple rules they learnt at the Church School they would never go far wrong. In the words of Longfellow, success was nothing more and nothing less than doing the daily task that lay before them well, and doing well whatever they had to do. Nothing was gained without hard work, and if anyone wanted to achieve anything, they must not depend on the schoolmaster, but "put their backs into it."

ONLY THREE HEADMASTERS

Concluding, the Chairman said they were proud to have with them the first headmaster of the Church School, which, he might add, had had only three headmasters in 50 years. They were also proud to welcome the three oldest members of the staff, and among others, Mr. A. Atkinson, a former scholar, who had been one of the school managers for a large number of years. The school had educated more than 4,200 scholars.

The next speaker was Mr. Thomas Smith, a prominent stock and share broker and company secretary in Sheffield, who was the first pupil teacher at the school. Introducing Mr. Smith, the Chairman said he owed seven-eighths of any success he had achieved to him. Mr. Smith was the man who taught him how to work. In those days there were no scheduled hours as far as they were concerned. After working ten hours a day in the factory or elsewhere, he was prepared to sit down with Mr. Smith and try to learn something a bit different. They often worked up to midnight and whether they went on for one or two hours longer they were not particular.

Mr. Smith, who revealed a fertile sense of humour, said that most men considered 60 years a large slice out of their life and some ladies regarded it as a tragic slice out of theirs. (Laughter.) They were met that evening to do honour, to whom honour was due:- their dear old schoolmaster, who for 39 years had charge of the Church School. He might say a great deal about education, but he would content himself by saying that the present system was not exactly the kind he would recommend. Instead of the present-day "cramming" he would prefer that steps should be taken to discover and develop what was in a child. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Smith went on to say that the scholars produced by the Church School were "a fair good sample" and made good citizens. He was proud of his associations with Mr. Pollard, whose influence on the school and its scholars had been felt over a long period. As a boy he lived at Brogden and he well remembered walking to and from the Church School. He was afraid he did not often get there on time; in fact he had been late as a scholar, late as a teacher and late as a husband throughout life (laughter). He recalled that Mr. Pollard had once given him an essay to write on punctuality. "I was well able to write on that subject," continued the speaker, "because I knew everything about punctuality except how to practise it." (Laughter), "I was often reminded of the old proverb: 'The early bird catches the worm,' but I always thought it was the worm's fault for being up so soon." (Laughter.)

OVER STILES TO SCHOOL

Mr. Smith then presented a handsome smoking cabinet to Mr. Pollard amid loud applause. The cabinet bore the following inscription:

"Presented to Alfred Pollard, Esq., on the occasion of the Church Day School's Jubilee celebrations, January 6th, 1934." Gifts of two pipes and a large tin of tobacco from Mr. Windle and Mr. Smith were contained in the cabinet. The recipient had a rousing ovation when he rose to respond. Mr. Pollard confessed that he had expected only a

small token and consequently, it came as a big surprise to him to receive such a handsome present. He felt it was a great privilege to take part in those celebrations, and he was glad to see such a large number taking an interest in the old school. The history of the school had been dealt with in a recent issue of "The National," the school magazine, but he would like to add the names of some who had been prominently connected with the school in its early days.

Mr. Pollard proceeded to read the following list:-

Messrs. B. Dean, Thos. Smith, John Armistead, James Waterworth, William P. Atkinson, James Nuttall, H. Ashley, Fred Bracewell, Alfred Pilkington, - Peel, W. B. Duckworth, John Widdup, Procter Barrett, Charles Shuttleworth, John Walmsley, T. Briggs, William Lambert, James Kidd, William Perry, Harrison Bailey and William Atkinson, junr.

"If I gave a list of all the lady workers, I should require a paper a yard long," added the speaker.

Continuing in reminiscent vein, Mr. Pollard said that when the school was opened there were green fields on three sides. York Street did not go past the school, and it was the same with Wellington Street, while even Chapel Street had a wall across the top. In order to get to the school, one had to climb over stiles and pick one's way along country paths. On one occasion an inspector lost his shoe in the process.

The school began with Miss Smith and himself, and at that time the infants were combined in one room. The first assistant teacher was Mr. Anderton, of Accrington, who left to prepare for the ministry, and, unfortunately, died through overwork whilst studying. Then came Mr. Robson, who had some difficulty in finding Barnoldswick, which was not on the map. Also among the early assistants were Mr. John Armistead and Mr. Thomas Smith, the latter leaving as a pupil teacher before he had finished his time. Throughout its history the school had had splendid teachers, hard workers and loyal to the backbone. He was glad to see that several of the old teachers were still going strong.

FEE PAYING DAYS

"We began with 80 scholars," Mr. Pollard went on, "and at that time 'full-timers' paid a fee of 4d. and 'half-timers' 3d. a week. If they brought their money on Monday morning we were sure they were going to come the whole week. (Laughter.) There was spinning as well as weaving in Barnoldswick in those days, and the children who worked half-time in the spinning mills were known as 'doffers'."

The subjects taught in the schools were the "three R's." Government inspectors stayed in the town for weeks at a time, and each child had to be examined individually in reading, writing and arithmetic. Strenuous efforts had to be made to bring the more backward pupils up to the standard of the brighter ones, and this led to a certain amount of "cramming." He thought that it was much nicer teaching to-day, although there were more subjects.

On behalf of himself and Mr. Windle, Mr. Smith presented a set of tobacco pipes to Mr. E. W. Robson, former headmaster of the Samlesbury School, Blackburn, and now living in retirement at Lytham St. Annes.

Mr. Robson replied in suitable terms. "I spent nearly seven years within the four walls of the Church School working as an assistant under one of the best and ablest head teachers I have ever come across in my whole career," said Mr. Robson. For 32 years he had been headmaster of the Samlesbury School, which had been held up as an example in the House of Commons. The prominence that school had attained was due very largely to the training he had received at the hands of Mr. Pollard. The speaker laughingly recalled his first railway journey from Leeds to Barnoldswick, and caused much amusement by confessing his belief that "Barlick" and "Barnoldswick" were two different places. In conclusion, he congratulated the managers on the progress of the Church School, and expressed strong approval of the readiness shown by the Church people of the town to undertake any improvements recommended by the authorities.

TEACHERS' LONG SERVICE

To commemorate their long service, gifts of book-ends in Dalton china were handed by Mr. Smith to Mrs. Allum (34 years), Miss Waite (31 years) and Mr. Levi Turner (27 years). All three made fitting replies.

A surprise presentation of a fountain pen and cigarettes was made to Mr. H. Belshaw (present headmaster) on behalf of the school managers.

Mr. Belshaw, who was obviously taken unawares, jokingly confessed that "the biter had been bitten" He thanked the managers for the gift and what it betokened. In the presence of so many old scholars, he felt like a little boy who should be seen and not heard. (Laughter,) Those jubilee celebrations had been to him, and he felt sure to the remainder of the staff, great encouragement. They had met people who had not passed through his hands, but had done extraordinarily well. They were real good men and women, and they had encouraged the staff to carry forward the work of the school.

Mr. H. Wilson, J.P. (Chairman of the Barnoldswick Urban District Council), said he had always held Mr. Pollard in high regard, adding that the members of the Council were greatly interested in all the schools in the town. Mr. Pollard had taught boys and girls the way of right living, and that work was being faithfully carried on by the present headmaster and his assistants. (Applause.)

Mr. J. Armistead, who is now a headmaster at Colne, recalled that when he began as a candidate teacher at the Barnoldswick Church School his salary was 3s. 6d. per fortnight, while his first remuneration as a pupil teacher was 5s. a week.

The last speaker was Mr. S. Bowker, C.C. (chairman of the Barnoldswick Education Sub-Committee). Mr. Bowker emphasised the value of education and pointed out that if this country was to return to prosperity with the other nations of the world, the standard must be kept up.

FIFTY CANDLES

In the course of the evening, solos were given by Mrs. Windle, Mrs. E. Clough, Miss H. Wright, Messrs. C. Midgley (Kelbrook), Allan Garnett, M. Green and J. Hardisty, while Mr. J. Demaline (conjurer) also entertained. All the artistes were old scholars.

During two intervals the following pieces were delightfully executed by Mr. A. C. Peckover's School Orchestra, under the direction of Miss Annie Lund "Stand Chen," "Diadem," "School March," "Hibernia," "Melodies of all nations" and "Blue Danube." Miss E. Akrigg, ALCM, was the pianist.

A large birthday cake, bedecked with fifty burning candles, was greatly admired. Mr. Pollard made the first incision, and pieces were afterwards sold to members, of the company.

For the unqualified success of the Jubilee celebrations, special praise is due to Messrs. H. Belshaw and John Peel (joint secretaries"), and Mr. A. Atkinson (treasurer).

- Craven Herald Friday January 12th 1934

jct

Miscellaneous Gleanings

The Craven Herald 50 years ago

12th January 1934

1884

A disastrous fire, causing damage to the extent of £25,000 and throwing a large number of people out of work, occurred at Earby Victoria Mill s owned and worked by Mr. Christopher Bracewell.

1884

On Saturday evening the members of the Earby Victoria Cricket Club held a tea at the Victoria Institute, and afterwards a ball was held. It is understood that the club is to be broken up , as the field which has been placed at their disposal is no longer available to them.

The Craven Herald 25 years ago

18th May 1934

1909

A skating rink has been opened at the Albion Hall, Earby, and many people have been affected by this renewed form of amusement.

A Stranger Comes to Earby

Former School Master's Memories of Fifty Years Ago

Following an article by "J.H." on the work of Mr. James Lindley, headmaster of the Earby Wesleyan School for 35 years, Mr. Lindley himself contributes in the following article his first impressions of the border town.

I have been asked to tell what were my impressions of Earby when I came as a complete stranger to the district just over 50 years ago. This was my first introduction to the uplands of my own country. It was in August and the exhilaration of the atmosphere gave one a feeling of buoyancy and energy. The heather was coming into bloom, and the thought of the air travelling over miles of fragrance was in itself most stimulating. Then from my bedroom I could see the purple hilltops, a completely new experience. One was struck by the irregularity of the village, and the stark bareness of the countryside. When taking walks, the sight of the many large tree boles in the hedgerow made one realise how lovely the scenery must have been before the woodmen did their sad work.

Most noticeable was the dreadful condition of the roads. Soon after we came, my wife and I were walking in the muddy curve about where the Bank of Liverpool now stands. Mrs. Lindley put her foot down and it came up minus the boot, which remained in the mire. I was compelled to carry her, and seat her on a wall, then go back and grope for the boot in the dark. The condition about Lane Ends was almost beyond description. It was no uncommon thing to see carts almost up to the hubs in water. Muck Street was truer to its name than it is today.

To me, a lover of nature, the flora was most interesting and lovely. Primroses just abounded, I had often gathered a buttonhole of them in Langroyd Road on my way to the station. On one occasion a request was made through the school children for a few bunches for a funeral. The result was embarrassing- a clothes-basketful. Wild daffodils grew in isolated places. Lilies of the valley, butterfly orchids, oak and beech ferns were not uncommon. I have seen fine trout "guddled" in Wentworth Beck.

There were interesting old people living, who could tell stories of handloom weaving and packhorses, and could even point out the cottages that were thatched in their younger days. The people all received my wife and myself most kindly. Their hospitality was unbounded.

Baking in the Home

All the women baked their own bread, and it was bread, too. The tea parties excelled anything we had ever seen. Each woman seemed to be expert in some branch of culinary art, and her particular ability was well known and oft in request. To attend a committee meeting where arrangements were made for such a feast was interesting. One heard such remarks as these. "Of course, Mrs. A. you'll make some of your teacakes." "We must have some of Mrs. B's tarts," and so on. No bought bread or confectionery was so much mentioned, and the net result was triumph. As the years rolled by a gradual change came which was not for the better.

Of course, the religious and social life revolved round the two churches, the Baptist and the Wesleyan. One was struck with the unity of purpose which animated both peoples. They had one Band of Hope and Temperance Society, which held its meetings in the institute. I think never was a village community blessed with such a band of able speakers and workers. All the local preachers and Sunday School teachers united in this work. There is inspiration in numbers, and this society had both.

The musical ability of the people was of a high order. There were few cottages without a musical instrument of some kind. The village could boast of some fine soloists. The congregational singing had both volume and tone. "While Shepherds" and "Crown Him" at the opening of some Christmas "At Homes" is a memory that still strangely affects me.

An Urgent Errand

There was no cinema in those days. Evenings were spent reading, music, self-improvement and meetings of various kinds. Earby had no resident minister, no doctor, lawyer nor architect. I had the experience of a hurried journey over the hill to Barnoldswick to fetch a doctor, and well remember the heart to heart talk we had when coming back. Fortunately it was a bright moonlight night. You may imagine what the same journey would mean

on a cold sleety night to both doctor and messenger, yet that was a common occurrence. Earby itself, on a moonless night was bad enough, as the streets were not lighted; but that was child's play compared with the journey over the hills. Once when showing a stranger minister the way past Kay Fields, we found a family of four, father with child in arms mother with baby, who had been walking round the snow-covered field, vainly trying to find a stile till they were almost in despair. The heartfelt thanks the woman gave as I relieved her of her burden and led the way is still a vivid memory.

In many respects, Earby has wonderfully improved. The great opportunities that have been won by the people for secondary and more advanced education, the improved road and drainage conditions, the better water and gas supplies, the acquisition of electricity for power and lighting are all to the good, though the effects of bad trade are sadly too evident. Then where is the religious enthusiasm I found 50 years ago? At that time the deacons of the Baptist Church had weekly meetings for enquirers, which were largely attended. The Wesleyan class meetings were a living inspiring force. The preaching was earnest, the outcome of personal experience. The people had a mind to work for the highest interest of the community. The chapels were well attended by worshippers, who didn't mind a few grammatical errors so long as their hearts were warmed and their souls fed.

"Licking" the Carpet

My wife was not acquainted with the West Riding district, and I can still see the look of amazed enquiry she gave me, when, after asking a friend how she managed to clean her front room carpet, was told, "Why, John just hings it ower t' clothes line an' licks it."

I soon learnt to love the Craven folk, their children and their dialect. The first were warm-hearted and generous. Their quaint sayings were doubly humorous when given in the dialect. The children were intelligent and responsive, and it was a pleasure to teach them. The great bugbear to teachers was the half-time system. School inspectors made no allowance. They expected the same attainments from both half-timers and full-timers.

I was often disheartened after asking seemingly intelligent parents to allow a promising boy to stay full time a little longer to be met with the reply, "I went half-time when I was eight. It's a pity if he can't go at twelve." These memories seem like a dream. Though I often longed for a wider sphere in which to labour, I am thankful now that thirty-five of the best years of my life were spent among the Craven hills in Earby.

- Craven Herald Friday 27 September 1935

EARBY OF LONG AGO

Mill Owner Who Was Knighted

The Marriage Festival of Sir Dyson Mallinson

It is interesting to old Earby residents to recall those who were associated with the Bracewells in their management of the spinning mill and weaving sheds. Currer Moorehouse, who came from Airton, was the overlooker in the card room section. Jack Ellis was in charge of the "throstle" spinning, and Duncan McPhail superintended the mule spinners.

"Duncan," as he was always called, was a real scotchman, and had a natural weakness for a "wee drop" o' whiskey.

Other prominent positions were held as follows: Engineers, William Varley and Richard Webster; fireman, William Bailey; mechanics, Henry Hartley, Thos Crowther, Henry Brown and H.C. Smith; joiner, Richard Demaine; blacksmith, John Taylor; weighman, Thomas P. Burrow; roller coverer, Daniel Parker; head tackler, William Turner; warehouse manager, James Hartley; head loomer Edmonson Watson; tapers, William Hartley, Henry Bailey and T.H. Hartley.

In the office the members of the family were assisted by Thomas Swire and James Moorhouse. At the old shed, John Green, who came from Gargrave, was in charge of the warehouse, and later Joseph Cowgill; the engineer was Robert Bradley, who was succeeded by Richard Wilkinson (Dick o' Bowes). The taklers were John Wilkinson and Robert Higson. At an earlier period, Stephen Pickles, who founded the famous Barnoldswick firm of that name, was a tackler at the old shed.

Robert Bradley also removed to Barnoldswick, and his three sons, Watson, Christopher and Arthur, established the well known firm of Bradley Bros.

Mr. Dyson Mallinson, who belonged to a highly respected Huddersfield family, succeeded to the proprietorship of the Victoria Mill and Old Shed on the removal of the Bracewell family to America. On May 13th, 1880, he had married the eldest daughter of the "Old Master" amid scenes of unparalleled public interest. The Wesleyan Chapel was crowded, as it was also the first marriage which had taken place in the sanctuary. The workpeople and their families, to the number of 700, were entertained on the following Saturday, tea being served in the Victoria Institute and the Baptist and Wesleyan schools. A gala was afterwards held in the Cricket Field, and a party of gymnastic entertainers provided a thrilling display. Refreshments on a lavish scale were provided, and the village Brass Band played for dancing. At the close of the day the Band paid a visit to Green End House, and played for the enjoyment of the guests.

Within four years, 1885-1889, the Mallinson era in Earby drew to its close, and it was a gloomy experience for the village community. Bad trade, poor work, low wages, and constant unrest breaking out in spontaneous strikes, were the outstanding features of that period. For a short time Mr. Mallinson, with his wife and two children, resided at Heather View, Green End.

Business Collapse

He appointed a gentleman manager for the two mills, Mr. Scholes, who took up his residence at Heather View. There was no improvement in the state of affairs, and the business collapsed, the permanent stoppage coming in the first week in July, 1889, on the eve of Earby Feast, the village annual holiday. The firm had been styled "Victoria Spinning and Manufacturing Co." Mr. Mallinson resumed his business as a cotton broker at Liverpool and Manchester, and resided at Ormskirk.

During the Great War he rendered valuable service in organising hospital equipment in Liverpool and ministering to the soldiers, for which he was knighted, and he became Sir Dyson Mallinson. In his later years he was an outstanding figure on the Manchester Royal Exchange, where he had offices. He was one of the very few who retained the "top hat" equipment, and in his business associations he assumed a genial disposition. He died a few years ago.

The Victoria Mill and weaving sheds were closed for about four years, but the mill was eventually purchased for £8000 by Messrs. Thompson Brothers, of Trafalgar Mill, Burnley, and the Earby firm was known as the Mill Co. Ltd.

Mr. James Witham Thompson took a keen interest in the development of the village after he became associated owner of the mill, and he formulated the scheme for a new entrance to the village from the bottom of New Road, making a new road across the Cricket Field, which became known as Victoria Road. This has since become the main shopping street in the new part of the village. He also erected two blocks of houses in the vicinity of Victoria Road, and enlarged the weaving portions of the mill premises. In these developments he was assisted by Mr. George Proctor, chartered accountant, of Burnley, who was the secretary of the Mill Co. Mr. Proctor eventually acquired the ownership of the whole property, including the Gasworks, which had been formed into a separate company.

After a few years, during which the spinning section of the mill was run by the Thompson firm, Mr. Sam Dugdale, of Luddenden Foot, took over that part of the business, and he was very successful. Mr. Dugdale was a very public-spirited man, and he associated himself with every movement for the improvement of the community. Although he had been a Congregationalist he joined the new struggling cause of the United Methodists, and very largely helped in the erection of their new chapel and school. He was a staunch supporter of the Village Institute, and a very keen member of the education committee. In politics he was a sturdy Liberal, yet always friendly with other parties. Mr. Dugdale and all the family were very highly esteemed. They resided at West View, Skipton Road, and when, after about a dozen years, they returned to their native heath, Mr. Dugdale gave £500 for a recreation ground in that neighbourhood as a memento of his residence in Earby.

"Room and Power"

A new company, The Walden Spinning Co. Ltd., took over the business from Mr. Dugdale, with Mr. Tom Pickles as managing director. Soon after, a strike of the mule spinners took place, but no settlement was arrived at, and the spinning machinery never started again.

The weaving department of the premises underwent extensive alterations, and the enlarged space was let off to several newly formed firms on the "Room and Power" principle.

Mr. James Moorhouse and Mr. Thomas Henry Hartley established a successful firm as Moorhouse and Hartley, in 1892, and after the partnership was dissolved, about ten years later, Mr.T.H. Hartley retained the business and Mr. Moorhouse started on his own account at Barnoldswick. Mr. Moorhouse was successful in his venture, and ran 650 looms in Wellhouse Mill in Barnoldswick, and later bought a weaving shed at Trawden with 400 looms. He also had a doubling mill at Gorton, has a cloth agency business in Manchester. While living at Barnoldswick he occupied Bank House, and then built "The Knoll," near Bracwell. In his later years he resided at Leach House, Barrowford Road, Colne.

Mr.T.H. Hartley removed to the New Brook Shed in 1908 where he installed a new plant of 408 looms, for the manufacture of high-class sateens. He was assisted in the management by his son, Mr. Bracewell Hartley, jnr., and his son-in-law, Mr. Ernest Jenkinson. Mr. Hartley was a prominent member of the Baptist Church, and for some years had a seat on the Parish Council. He was well known throughout the North of England as a poultry fancier, and was a frequent exhibitor at the principal shows. More than twenty years ago he retired to Lightcliffe, near Halifax, but returned to Earby to spend the last few years of his life.

A new company was formed to take over the looms and plant at Victoria Mill formerly run by Mr.T.H. Hartley, the new firm being styled "The Seal Manufacturing Co. Ltd." The principal members of the firm were Mr. Albert Jackson and Mr. Robert Thornton, who had been associated with Mr.T.H. Hartley in the management of his works.

Mr. Jackson came to Earby from Burnley 40 years ago, and is one of the best known men in the district. He had a long term of service on the Skipton Board of Guardians, becoming one of the vice-chairman. He is now the chairman of the Earby Education Sub-Committee. Mr.Thornton, who came from Barnoldswick, had been an esteemed Earby resident for more than 50 years, and both he and Mrs. Jackson are prominently associated with the Baptist Church.

A New Firm

The Earby Manufacturing Co. Ltd. was formed in 1895, and took over a new section of the Victoria Shed, with space for 420 looms. Mr. Hugh Curren Smith was mainly instrumental in the formation of the firm, and the other partners who were directors in the establishment were Messrs. John Parker, Joseph Parker, Hargreaves Wallbank, George P. Hartley, Henry Brown and S. Duxbury.

Mr. Smith had several years experience in mill management with the Thompson firm and Hy. Bracwell's, and also as manager and salesman of the firm of James Shaw, Salterforth. When the spinning mill was discontinued, in 1910, the large building was adapted for preparation purposes for weaving and as warehouse accommodation for the weaving shed adjoining. The Earby Manufacturing Company increased their weaving space to include 684 looms. The chairman of the company is Mr. Smith Duxbury, the only surviving director of the original number. Mr. John Hartley is the manager and salesman, and is the son of the former chairman. Mr.H.C. Smith went to reside at Ansdell, in 1913, and five years later removed to Didsbury, near Manchester. He returned to his native village in 1929, but only survived a few weeks. He was very well known in his earlier years in cricket and musical circles. Mr.T.N. Parker, son of Mr. Joseph Parker, and a former manager, has been a well-known and successful cloth agent for thirty years. His younger brother, Leonard Parker, is the manager of the new firm at Airebank Mills, Gargrave.

The firm of messrs. Charles Shuttleworth & Co. Ltd. occupy the space, with 600 looms, at the south end of the mill premises, a portion of the original weaving shed having been extended in that direction. Mr. Charles Shuttleworth was at one time in business as a joiner and builder at Barnoldswick, and prior to taking up manufacturing was the landlord of the Punch Bowl Inn, between Earby and Thornton.

Mr. Shuttleworth's sons, George, Edgar and Richard, were associated with him in the conduct of the business, but the youngest brother laid down his life in The Great War. The business, which has had a successful career, is now under the control of Messrs. George and Edgar Shuttleworth.

Mr. Birley's Part

After the alterations, in 1911, the middle room of the large mill was taken over for weaving purposes by Messrs. James Stockdale and W. Jones, with 280 looms. This firm ceased after a few years, and the Coates

Manufacturing Co. Ltd., from Barnoldswick, with Mr. Walter Wilkinson as managing director, took over the Seal Manufacturing Co's. business and that of Stockdale and Jones.

Another change has recently taken place, and the Victoria Manufacturing Co. Ltd. have taken over most of the space occupied by the Coates Manufacturing Company. This new company is on the co-partnership principle, and the secretary and salesman is Mr. Percy Lowe.

Mr.A.J. Birley came to reside at Earby 40 years ago, and in the course of that time he has become the leading manufacturer and public servant. His early life was spent in Burnley, his native town, and his family were engaged in cotton spinning, at the Lodge Mill, Barden Lane, on the outskirts of Burnley.

Following a disastrous fire, Mr. Birley turned to Earby as a promising place for a new venture, and took a portion of the Victoria Shed, which Mr.J.W. Thompson had intended to occupy, and started manufacturing on his own account. After about five years a new section was added to the Victoria Mill premises, and a large weaving shed was built on the old cricket field, with space for 850 looms, for the occupation of Mr. Birley. The power was provided by a new shaft from the mill engine, which was carried over the beck to the new block.

For his manager Mr. Birley had engaged a former Burnley manufacturer, Mr. Joseph Waring, and he also had the assistance of a very experienced salesman, Mr. Robert Thistlethwaite, who also came from Burnley.

In the meantime the Lodge Mill had been reconstructed as a weaving shed to accommodate 1000 looms, which was owned and run by Mr. Birley, with the assistance of another salesman and manager.

Still the business extended, and when the Albion Shed, at Earby, was restarted, in 1904, Mr. Birley took space for about 400 looms. The new portion of the Albion Shed was in close proximity to the Victoria Shed premises, occupied by the firm. The total number of looms run by the firm was about 2500, and they were constantly run in full work. Mr. Birley was also a director of the New Hall Spinning Co. Ltd., Burnley, one of the best mills in East Lancashire.

Public Services

After the war the Lodge Mill was sold to another Burnley firm, and the New Hall Mill closed. The Earby business has been transferred to the Albion Shed, which has been taken over in its entirety by Mr. Birley's firm. The shed has loom space for just over 1000 looms. Mr. Birley is assisted in the management by Mr.W. Crowther and his three sons, Bolton, Norris and Tom.

It is not possible to do full justice to the public services that Mr. Birley has unstintedly given to Earby and district. When he came to reside at Springfield he had married the daughter of Mr. Christopher Barrett, one of the leading farmers in the Earby area. He at once threw himself into the public arena, and was elected a member of the Parish Council. On the retirement of the Rev.L.B. Morris, J.P., Mr. Birley succeeded to the chairmanship of the council, and prepared the way for the subsequent leadership of the Urban District Council. The foundation which was so truly laid in the earlier years of the Council's administration has largely contributed to the eminent position which the local authority holds in public esteem.

Mr. Birley has been the chairman of the Earby and District Manufacturers' Association almost since its inception, and the regard in which he is held in business circles was evidenced by their unanimous choice of Mr. Birley to be the assessor for the manufacturing side of the industry at the industrial court held at Manchester Town Hall in 1920, a choice which was warmly endorsed by the operatives as well. As a local magistrate, Mr. Birley has rendered distinguished service, which has been crowned by his appointment to the chairmanship of the Skipton Bench.

In his earlier years, Mr. Birley was a keen sportsman, and played football with the Burnley team. He has stimulated interest in local sport, especially as the president of the Earby Cricket Club.

Mr. Birley has always been a convinced Conservative in politics, and is the leader of the party in the division, and in religion a loyal churchman and churchwarden of long standing, but he has always maintained the most friendly relations with other parties and churches, and has supported local charitable institutions in a munificent manner.

During the War he not only officiated as the local referee, but took the lead in the administration of relief for those in distress.

Earby has been most fortunate in the possession of such a sterling leader in her public life during these 40 years now ending. Mr. Birley has resided in the neighbouring village, Thornton-in-Craven, at "Throstle Nest," for over 20 years, with his wife and daughter, Miss Betty Birley. His other daughter, Mrs. Brooks, lives in a new residence in the same grounds. [J.H.]

- Craven Herald and Pioneer April 19th 1935 (p4)

School Teacher Retires

Retirement of Mr. Levi Turner

Mr. Levi Turner, who has been on the teaching staff of the Barnoldswick Church School for 28 years, is to retire. Up to three years ago he walked from his home at Earby over the fields to Barnoldswick and back each day of his working week, covering about 25,000 miles in a quarter of a century. He has been associated with three headmasters at the Church School and was among the three teachers who received long service tokens when the jubilee of the school's foundation was observed in January of the present year.

Music and cricket have claimed a large share of Mr. Turners' leisure time. For many years he has been conductor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church choir at Earby, and for a long period he has served on the committee of the Earby C.C.

The Craven Herald, March 1st, 1935

Earby Long Ago

Seventy Years in Medical Service

Days When Township Had No Resident Doctor

Of those who have rendered distinguished service to the communal life of our village, the medical profession is worthy of the highest commendation and recognition. We are accustomed to taking these services for granted, as a matter of course, that we did not rightly estimate their value and significance. How different must have been the conditions about seventy years ago, before there was a resident doctor, and for medical services the district was dependant on visits from medical practitioners from Colne, Barnoldswick and Skipton.

The clergymen at Thornton and Kelbrook (the Rev. Canon Morris and the Rev. Owen Owen) were noted for giving valuable advice in times of sickness, and Mr. Owen was virtually the village doctor at Kelbrook. Nor must the services of good - hearted, neighbourly women be overlooked, for such were in constant demand in times of sickness and misfortune. There was a lady living in Aspen Lane, who always kept a store of clean linen ready for emergencies, and if there were accidents in the mill, on the roads or in the quarries, people knew who to turn to for suitable dressings.

There were, too, occasional outbreaks of typhoid fever and smallpox, dread scourges which sometimes held whole families in their death grip. There are instances of real heroism of brave women ministering to the sick and dying, and who struggled to overcome the ravages of foul disease. It is told of two ladies, at the "top of the town," of how they took their dolly tubs into the street, filled them with boiling water, and, adding sweet soap and chloride of lime, fetched out of the affected houses all the bedclothes and linen, and made recovery possible by their sacrificial labours.

First Resident Practitioner

A retired army doctor settled in Earby in 1870, and he appears to have been the first resident practitioner on the village. He had a commodious house built in School Lane, near to the Old Grammar School, which he named "The Grove." It is stated that the house was so designated because there was a grove of trees in the field across the lane, and the doctor was very grieved when the trees were cut down some time after he had settled there.

Dr. Theakstone was advanced in years when he took up residence in Earby, and he was always affectionately termed "th'old doctor." He had a fine reputation, which was maintained to the end of his career ; he had several difficult and unusual cases, which he treated very successfully ; and he was especially noted for his kindness to

the poor and for his reasonable charges for the villagers. He left Earby for Newton-le-Willows, near Bedale, his native place, to spend the declining days of his life, and he passed away after a full and serviceable life of 80 years. Before he left Earby an attempt was made to organise a public testimonial, but it was abandoned owing to the doctor's strong objections to such a course. There are many still alive who vividly remember the "good old doctor," including those who visited his house to sing festival hymns at the Earby Feast Walking Day.

I may add a personal note relative to the old doctor's ministrations. When a boy of about eight years I was sent to fetch some "wick" lime in a bucket. Unfortunately, it was nearly full, and very heavy, and I stumbled over a stone in the road, and the lime was splashed into my face. I was taken into a shop nearby (the old "Co-op.") and my head pushed onto a bread mug full of water.

For several days I was practically blind, and I have a distinct recollection of being led by the hand by my mother to Dr. Theakstone's surgery at "The Grove." The old doctor was exceedingly kind, and with a squirt he cleared away all traces of the lime from my eyes. It was a painful process, but he kindly assured me it would soon be over, and I should have my eyesight thoroughly restored. The memory of his kindness, both in word and deed, is a very happy one.

Served From Barnoldswick

For a few years after the departure of the "old Doctor" the Earby district was principally served by Barnoldswick doctors.

Dr. Roberts was a frequent visitor to Earby, as he was the "Parish Doctor" and the Factory Certifying Surgeon. His place of call, as the "Parish Doctor," was a grocers shop in Water Street, kept by William Wilkinson, who was generally known as "Bill o' Joa o'Dick's." Dr. Roberts was a cripple, being bereft of one leg, and he always had two crutches to assist him in his locomotion. He went about the district in a dog-cart, and was always accompanied by his faithful manservant.

Dr. Roberts had a long term of service as the factory surgeon, and hundreds of Earby lads and lasses appeared before him when the half-time system was in operation. It was always an event of special interest when "the doctor came to pass the children," and many Earby people have pleasant recollections of appearing before the grand old man. He had a fine physique, notwithstanding his infirmity, and he "looked the part" well with his handsome countenance, adorned with side whiskers. He was indeed one of the outstanding figures of the period in which he practised his profession, and was held in the highest regard by all who knew him. Dr. Nightingale, who belonged to an esteemed Thornton family, became Dr. Robert's assistant, and he resided at Mr. John Wilkinson's, in Water Street, Earby. During a brief stay in the district he won golden opinions by the gracious and sympathetic manner in which he discharged his medical duties.

The writer had an experience of the kindness of Dr. Nightingale which will never be forgotten. It was on a fine summer morning, in August, 1887. My father and brother had gone to work about 5-45, when my mother was taken suddenly and seriously ill, and was unable to rise as usual. Shortly after six o'clock I ran down Aspen Lane to Water Street, and aroused Dr. Nightingale. Having explained the position to him he promised to be up at Green End in a few minutes. On his arrival he made his way into the sick room, and after a brief examination gave me such a compassionate look. "Your mother is very, very ill, will you get one of the neighbours to come in?" She was beyond any aid he could render, and in a few hours she passed quietly away.

Dr. Alderton, of Barnoldswick, newly arrived fifty years ago, included Earby in his round, and he was a welcome visitor. He rode a fine horse in those days, and made his journey through Salterforth and Kelbrook to Earby, returning via Thornton and Coates. He had a good number of patients at Earby, and was always regarded as a very efficient doctor, and quite a specialist in the treatment of some cases. He had a sympathetic manner, with just a touch of "snap" in his geniality, and is gratefully remembered to this day. He is now living in semi-retirement in his adopted town of Barnoldswick. He succeeded Dr. Roberts as factory surgeon of the district.

An Irish Personality

After a period of about five years, a new resident practitioner arrived in the person of Dr. Hunter. He was an Irishman, of typical Irish geniality and gusto. At first he resided in the front row of Wesley Place, opposite the Wesleyan Chapel, and later occupied a new house in Green End Villas. He soon became a popular doctor, and established a good practice, with the result that he had built a new commodious house, with surgery, in Water Street. The home rule agitation was then at its height and the doctor allied himself with the Liberal Party, which was then very strong in the village. He addressed several meetings, and could always speak interestingly, with firsthand knowledge. He was very much attached to the Victoria Institute, and made many friends among all

sections of the community. Of a progressive type of mind, the provision of more educational facilities made a strong appeal to him, and on the occasion of the first school board election he stood as an independent candidate. There were eight candidates, and Dr. Hunter was one of the successful aspirants for membership of the Board, but was returned by a narrow majority, being only three votes above the next on the list. At the election which followed, three years later, Dr. Hunter was at the head of the poll, a tribute alike to his popularity and service for the community. He worked in happy association with the other members of the board, and greatly enjoyed the service which he was able to render for the benefit of the children of the district. Dr. Hunter's wife was a talented artist and musician, and was highly esteemed.

Dr. Hitchen came to Earby as the village began to develop, in the early 'nineties, and quickly established a good practice. He commenced operations in Skipton Road, where Mr. Oates now resides. Later, he occupied a house in the West End Terrace, and then moved into Harrington House, near the railway crossing, at the gate house which was specially built for him. He was getting on in years when he settled at Earby, and on his retirement was succeeded by Dr. Storrs. Dr. Hitchen was a kindly disposed man and a highly esteemed physician.

Dr. Storrs came to Earby in the prime of life, and was a doctor of eminent gifts and qualifications. After a few years' service in the Earby district he took over a larger practice in Colne, where he attained a leading position in the medical world.

Dr Sutherland succeeded Dr. Storrs' Earby practice, and was a doctor of the highest qualifications. During the War he was called up for service, which terminated his association with Earby.

Dr. Canter, later of Crosshills, practised at Earby for a few years in the prosperous days before the War, and he occupied "The Woodbines," in Skipton Road. Dr. Ward had a brief period of service as a local doctor, residing in West End Terrace, Skipton Road. He also was commandeered for war service.

Dr. Archer took up residence at the south end of Earby, in Colne Road, past the station. He attended particularly to Kelbrook and Salterforth district, as well as to the station end of Earby. He died a few years ago, and was held in much esteem by his friends.

Doctors of Today

Of those who are now serving the community with characteristic skill and fidelity, mention must be made of Dr. Falconer. He was the successor to Dr. Hunter, coming to Earby 36 years ago, having been engaged for a few years at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley. He also brought with him a charming wife, who had been a hospital sister in the same institution.

Dr. Falconer soon won his way into the hearts of the Earby people, a place he has retained through all the varying years, by his unflinching tact and courtesy, combined with fidelity to his honourable calling. He is so much at home in Earby that he claims the privilege of addressing his innumerable friends by their christian names, and the young people he has seen grow up regard him with singular affection.

Dr. Falconer has been associated with the ambulance movement through its career in Earby, and has been unsparing in his efforts to ensure its splendid success. All those who have passed through the Ambulance Brigade and Nursing Division, as well as those who are still attached to these organisations, hold him in the very highest esteem. During the life time of the old Institute, Dr. Falconer was one of its heartiest supporters, and none felt it more keenly than he when it had to be closed.

Dr. Falconer's son, Alic (Alexander) has just completed his training at Edinburgh University, and is a valued member of the staff at the Burnley Victoria Hospital. About ten years ago Dr. Falconer took possession of Warrington House, and he was succeeded in residence at Oldfield House, Water Street, by Dr. Niven. Both these doctors are worthy sons of Scotland, and Dr. Niven, by his singular charm of manner, sympathetic demeanour, quaint humour and unflagging devotion, has endeared himself to all who know him.

Dr. Jagoe, who succeeded Dr Archer, is the township's latest acquisition, and he does not fall behind his companions in public esteem and appreciation. Dr. Jagoe is a son of Ireland, and possesses in full measure the genial wit and capacity for friendliness which distinguish his race.

May these three worthy men long be spared to exercise their beneficial ministry among us.

J. H.

-Craven Herald 21st June 1935 (p4)

Across the Years

Christmas Incidents Half a Century Ago

The following extracts are from the files of the "Craven Herald" for Saturday December 31st 1887.

The children of the mixed department of the Wesleyan School gave excellent entertainment last week, and needle work prizes were presented to the successful scholars by Miss. Baldwin.

The Christmas festival organised by the members of Earby Wesleyan Church, was held in the school room on Saturday. In the afternoon a tea party was held, while in the evening a meeting was held, and Mr.J. Duxbury, of Paythorne, occupied the chair.

The following are extracts from the files of the "Craven Herald" for Friday January 3rd 1912.

Keen disappointment was felt on Saturday when it became known that the replay match between Earby Amateurs and Barnoldswick Saint Thomas's could not be played. The Earby team were on the field and hundreds of spectators were present to witness the game. After about half an hours' wait it was stated that the Saints were unable to raise a team.

The Christmas tea party in connection with the Earby United Methodist Church was held on Saturday afternoon. In the evening a concert was sustained, presided over by the Rev.T. Thompson, when Mrs. Thompson presented the Sunday School children with prizes for regular attendance.

At a meeting of the Earby Wesley Guild on Saturday evening, an educational group of papers was read by Mr.J.W. Knight and Mr.E. Pawson. The Rev.Mr. Dalzell presided, and Mrs. Dalzell read Christmas poems to a moderately large attendance.

- Craven Herald and Pioneer Friday December 31st 1937

Earby Through 60 Years

After Victoria Mill Fire

Personalities Among Spinners and Doffers

(by John Hartley)

The rebuilding of the long end of Victoria Mill after the great fire occasioned several changes in the people employed when a restart was made in the early part of 1885. In the top which was used for mule spinning pairs of mules were installed, to pairs which had gone across. In the middle room ring spinning was introduced to take the place of the "Throstle" frames and the bottom was utilised, as formerly, for the processes. The doffers for the ring spinning room were an almost entirely new set, six for half time turn, with two "setters." as a setter, and my mate, who remained a setter, was Fred whom we all called "Neckem." father was "Tommy o' Sam's." were both "curiosities" in physique, of the type which were often in spinning mills of that period. Another man of that class was called "Little Jack Cropper", and he worked the small hoist which carried the "roving" bobbins from the bottom floor to the upper stories. On one occasion when Mr. Bickards, of Bell Busk, who was the factory inspector, made a raid on the mill for working overtime to six o' clock, he demanded to know Jack Cropper's name, as one under full time age. The inspector was completely non-plussed when he retorted "that he had a wife and two children." Another quaint character was Charles Windle (Charlie Joggler), who worked in the cotton mixing room.

I joined the doffers after three months at setting, and for the next two years we had few changes. They were good pals with one another, and quite an average set of Earby lads, with a few Thorntoners added.

We worked hard when we were at it, because we found that by getting through our task quickly we could have a good spell of time "laking" - anywhere from half-an-hour to two hours. One side of the frames was shorter than the other, and if we had only the short side to doff in an afternoon we had two hours off duty. Thus gave us plenty

of time for roaming about and mischief-making, and we were never at a loss to find an outlet for our surplus energy. Our first move was to make a dash for the hoist chain, where the bales of cotton were hoisted up into the cotton mixing room. Springing out of the doorway we grabbed hold of the chain and slid down to the ground. This was rather a frightful ordeal for a new starter who was not tall enough, or long armed enough, to clutch the chain, but we never failed to follow the leader.

In the summer time we often resorted to bathing, or jumping the becks and dykes. When the weather was broken and cold we "camped" in the watchhouse, the gas house or the boiler house.

A "Doffers' Band"

After the mill fire there was plenty of old iron lying about, and a favourite pastime of ours was an imitation "brass band." Old "throstles" served for cornets, rods for trombones, roving cans for euphoniums, big weft cans for the drums. We serenaded the streets of "old Earby," and usually finished up at the Grammar School, where we liked to lure old Mr. Bentley out of his den.

When we were expected back the overlookers whistle was sounded, but we were sometimes so far away that it could not be heard, and when we returned late the overlooker was always waiting for us, and we were very fortunate if we dodged his shoe-toe as we filed into the room. But our overlooker, Thomas Smith ("Tommy o' Abes) was one of the better sort, and there was not much of the spirit of aggression behind his "punches."

If at any time one of our number was away ill, or was put to another job, we had his work to do, but drew his wage as well, which gave us more spending money. On these occasions we always "celebrated" with sweet biscuits and "pop" at Elisha Harrison's shop in Water Street, and we had a merry time together. Our head doffer was Robert Hartley, but he was always known as "Bob o'Sploge's," the latter being his father's nickname.

The other lads I can recall included Algy and Harry Brown, John and Henry Speak, Harry and George Nussey, Edwin Hartley, Harry Riley and W. Wilkinson (Will o' Tit's)

Towards the end of my doffing career I started learning to weave in the New Shed with my uncle William Duxbury (Bill o' Bob's) who was one of the meekest mannered men I ever knew. Next to him there worked my Aunt Emma and Aunt Sarah, so I had plenty of scope and was well trained. It was a real pleasure to be associated with them, for I never got anything even approaching a "black look."

Shortly after I got two looms I was transferred to the old shed, where they were taking all the old looms out and replacing them with new Cooper looms. In due course I got three looms, and worked there until June, 1889, when the firm of Dyson Mallinson failed, and the mill with the two weaving sheds were stopped indefinitely.

It was a black "Earby Feast" that followed in July, and everybody was left to shift for themselves.

Earby Through 60 Years

Cotton Trade Ups and Downs

The Memorable Strike of 1905

(by John Hartley)

After weaving on four looms for Henry Bracewell and Sons, at the Albion Shed, a fresh leaf in my life began in 1895, when the Earby Manufacturing Co. was formed. The mill company added a new section to the weaving shed behind the spinning mill, which was taken over by the new company on the room and power principle. There were seven shareholders, who also were directors and my father (G.P. Hartley) was one of them. There were also Henry Brown, Smith Duxbury, John Parker, Joseph Parker, Hugh Currer Smith and Hargreaves Wallbank (Kelbrook).

Mr. Smith was practically the originator of the company, and was appointed manager, secretary and salesman. For two years previously he had been engaged as the manager and salesman for Mr. John Shaw, a Salterforth manufacturer, and he was well esteemed by the Salterforth people. While he was there, Mr. Smith had an amusing encounter with one of the weavers, who was accustomed to walk out of the shed each afternoon to light

the fire and put the kettle on. When she was told that the practice would have to be stopped she exclaimed, "But we allus hev done it, an' we hev a reight to goa out if we like." Ay missis," replied Mr. Smith, "you may hev a reight to go out, but you can't please yourself whether you come back or not!" It was an eye-opener to her. When some of the jobs were allotted in the new firm I was told that I'd to be a beamer. The work was entirely new to me, so it was arranged that I should go to Salterforth for a fortnight to learn beaming with Bill Inman, and the fortnight was extended to a month, owing to delay in getting the new shed ready.

I enjoyed the period of training very much. Bill was a good workman- as good a beamer as could be found anywhere- and he gave me ample scope to become efficient in my new occupation. If we were well forward with the work and "waiting for bobbins", we would walk out into the lane and saunter along the road, my friend having a good smoke at the same time.

Bill was a very patient, philosophical sort of chap, and if I let a bobbin fall through the ends that we were "creeling" he would say with a chuckle, Na' then, lad, tha can th'ends uyp thisel, an' it'll larn tha to be moor careful." Bill was native of Ap'trick (Appletreewick), and the love of the country was in his veins. Often on a weekend, he would venture forth with a gun, and always returned with something stowed away in his capacious coat pockets. Not that he was a poacher, but he was on good terms with farmers, and with the "keepers" on the craven estates. His wife was a winder, and she was a good member at the Salterforth Baptist Chapel. The small sojourn which I had amongst the Salterforth people increased the circle of my friendship, and the experience was a happy interlude in my life.

Meals Whilst Working

When I returned to Earby to take up my new job I laboured for the fitters for a few weeks, at 4d. an hour, and assisted in getting the new looms into the shed. As soon as the winders started I got to work with the "gaiting up" of the beaming frames. When I had got two frames running I was joined by a partner, Thomas Edward Parker, the son of John Parker. I had to "larn" him as well as I could, and at the end of the first week we had three frames running, and the fourth was got into commission the following week.

At that time all the beams for providing warp for the looms had to be made by the two beamers, and this necessitated running during the meal times, along with the tape machine. This procedure continued for five or six years, and some relief was then secured by an occasional set of beams made of coarse counts, which came out of Lancashire. Our working hours were from 6 a.m. to 5-30 p.m., and we got our meals with one or two frames running. We had some compensation, though, in the running hours after we had finished creeling. A set of 20,000 yards would keep the frame running usually for six hours, and creeling the other frame occupied about two hours, so each day we had several hours just tenting the frames.

An additional advantage was secured by the device by which each end was covered by a "pin," and if the end broke the pin dropped between two rollers and stopped the frame. When, as a rule, the work was good, opportunity was afforded for some light study, without neglecting the work, of which I readily availed myself. We had a good set of winders, twelve in all, and they were keen on their job, and liked to do a bit of "striving." There was quite a family complexion about them, as there were three sisters (Clara, Mary and Emma Steele); a mother and two daughters (Mrs. Eastwood, Gertrude and Rachel), and my two sisters. The winders were fond of singing at their work, especially at Christmas-time. But there was one of them (Mrs Hartley Garnett, who came from Gargrave) to whom singing was her natural element and her favourite song was:-

"The world is very beautiful
And full of joy to me;
The sun shines out in glory
On everything I see."

She had a glorious voice, and if she had been trained she might have been something like Gracie Fields, who was, in her early days, a winder in a cotton mill. We had also in the team one who had been a prize vocalist (Mrs.W. Lowcock, whose maiden name was Annie Turner), who could sing soprano, mezzo-soprano, or contralto, so extensive was her range.

Trip to Stoneyhurst

On Whit-Monday, 1901, we had a waggonette trip, in which event we included the taklers and twisters along with the winders and beamers, with their husbands and wives. The route of the trip was the "North Round," and our original intention was to include Stoneyhurst College in the places to be visited. For this purpose Thomas Edward Parker and I (who were the organisers) visited father Marchal at Broughton. He received us very graciously, and

promised to help us as far as he was in his power. We had a delightful conversation with him for about half an hour, at the close of which he rang his bell and summoned his housekeeper, giving her some instructions. She soon appeared with a tray, on which were two glasses of fresh drawn ale. My friend evidently enjoyed his glass, while I respectfully declined his generosity. Father Marchal apologised for my slight embarrassment, but he buttressed my temperance principles by citing cases of regrettable intemperance, including some of his own flock at Earby. He later informed us in a most courteous letter, that as the date of our proposed trip was Whit-Monday the college at Stoneyhurst would be closed that day.

The day of the trip at last dawned, and it was an ideal Spring morning. We started from the Lane Ends at six o'clock, and had our breakfast at Gisburn. A sumptuous repast of ham and eggs was provided for us by Mr. and Mrs. Duckworth, after which we resumed our journey. Our next stopping place was Bolton-by Bowland, and by the kindness of Mr.C.B.E. Wright our party was allowed to visit Bolton Hall and pass through the grounds. We had a short stay at Sawley Abbey, and then passed through the old castle town of Clitheroe, and arrived at Whalley for lunch, which was served in the Assembly Rooms. Owing to the cancellation of our intended visit to Stoneyhurst, we spent the afternoon sauntering around Whalley, and the horses being rested and refreshed, we proceeded to Burnley, where we had tea. The remainder of the journey home, through the cobbled streets of East Lancashire, was rather a tame affair, but the splendid view of Pendle Hill and Pendle Forest was a pleasing sight. We arrived home about nine o'clock. The days outing has remained an outstanding event to us all, as it was the last Whit-Monday holiday we were privileged to celebrate, owing to the change in the holidays.

As a Shopkeeper

Early in the following year, 1902, I embarked upon a new venture, and started in business as a newsagent and stationer. The first shop I occupied was part of premises owned by Messrs.S. Hartley and Son, of Gargrave, painters and house decorators, situated in Colne Road. The whole block of premises were later acquired by Earby Urban District Council and adapted for their offices and council chamber. The following year I took a shop with living accommodation, also in Colne Road, near it's junction with New Road, and remained there until 1906.

In the meantime I retained an association with the manufacturing company, and used to do part "sick" beaming. My friend, Bill Inman, had taken over my frames, but neither he nor my old partner had good health, so I was able to "keep my hand in." In 1905 the warehouse manager, Tom N. Parker, retired from the service of the company, and started in business as a cloth agent, and he asked me to apply for his post. I was readily accepted, and I have since had an unbroken association with the company as assistant manager, manager, secretary and salesman.

The Strike of 1905

The cotton trade entered upon a period of steady unparalleled prosperity in 1905, and advantage was then taken by the Colne and District Weavers' Association to bring the outside districts into line with the principal cotton weaving towns, both as regards the recognition of the union and the adoption of the Uniform List of weavers' wages. Mass meetings and shop meetings were held, and keen canvassing was engaged in by the committee and collectors of the Weavers' Association.

The weavers certainly held the whip hand, as there was then no local association of manufacturers to organise united action in meeting the demands of the operatives, if they were inclined to resist them. The firms were tackled one by one, and as some of them were of the opinion that recognition was bound to come sooner or later, they acceded to the demands made, especially as the Weavers' Union were prepared to allow a deduction of five percent from the standard list for local disadvantages. The directors of the Earby Manufacturing Co. immediately adopted the new scale of wages along with the other manufacturers, but they, for their own reasons, demurred at "recognising the Union."

There seems to have been a lack of tact in submitting their demands by the weavers' officials, and also a clash of temperaments. On the one hand there was the feeling, "Now's our chance, and we'll mak' em"; and on the other side, "We won't be made by you." Notices were handed in, and the strike started early in November. About two-thirds of the weavers were involved, and the firm carried on with the rest. A strike of that nature at one firm was not difficult to support by the Weavers' Association, and for the space of four months there was little change in the situation.

The engagement of two youths from Trawden led to an incident, which not only broke the stalemate, but lead to exciting and tumultuous scenes. The young men were residing temporarily in Kelbrook, and after they had ceased work they were followed to Kelbrook, through the fields pathway, to their temporary lodgings by a company of weavers who had previously been employed by the firm. The police regarded the case as one of intimidation, and they presented a list of names of some of those who took part, and pressed for police court

proceedings with a view to checking street "scenes," which had broken out. Summonses were taken out against six of the men, but the affect was just the opposite of what had been anticipated. The accused men were as inoffensive in character as any men in the village, but the charge against them was sustained as a definite breach of the law, and they were fined £5 each and costs by the Skipton bench of magistrates.

Streets Cleared

The police court case was the prelude to a stormy weekend, and the demonstrations continued on the following Monday night, and were accompanied by window smashing in some cases. The outlook was so unpromising that the police were reinforced, and mounted police were called in to disperse the crowds. But the crowds increased, the throwing of a half brick at a mounted constable aroused the police, and the streets were cleared by their combined action.

Then a reaction ensued, and it was felt among the operatives that something should be done to end the dispute. The services of Mr.D.J. Shackleton were secured, and he gave such assurances to the members of the firm that negotiations were entered upon. A meeting was arranged, and took place at the offices of Messrs. Proctor and Proctor, accountants, Burnley, and an agreement was signed by Mr.H.C. Smith (for the company) and Mr. Tom Shaw (for the weavers) which not only settled the strike, but this agreement, for nearly twenty years (until the industrial court was held at Manchester) was the only written document to form the basis of the relations between the Earby manufacturers and the Colne Weavers Association. The assurances given by Mr. Shackleton (afterwards Sir David Shackleton, chief labour advisor to the government) have been fully maintained, and the relations between the parties have since been of the most friendly nature.

One is reminded of an interview which Mr. Shaw had with Mr. Jas. Wilson Green (the district assistant overseer) respecting the assessment of Earby Weavers' Institute premises. Failing to secure his demands, Mr. Shaw threatened resistance, saying, "Do you know that I have behind me the whole of the Northern Counties' Amalgamation?" "And do you know," retorted Mr. Green, "That I have behind me the "everlasting hills of Craven?"

Another Dispute

Mr. Shaw had many excellent qualities, which carried him to high rank in parliament, but diplomacy was not one of them. One is inclined to wonder whether the strike was an echo of an age-long feud between Lancashire and Yorkshire!

In 1911, the Spring Mill came to a permanent stoppage in consequence of a strike of mule spinners, which was never settled, and the Walden Spinning Co. relinquished their tenancy of the premises.

The Mill Company converted the mill into warehouse accommodation for the adjoining weaving sheds, and the Earby Manufacturing Co. increased their looms from 422 to 684. The result of this transformation was to make the whole block of premises into one of the largest weaving sheds in the district, the firms all being run by one engine. The various firms were as follows with the approximate number of looms :-

Messrs.A.J. Birley Ltd	850
Messrs.Chas. Shuttleworth & sons	.580
Messrs. Stockdale & Jones	280
Seal Manufacturing CO..	420
Earby Manufacturing CO.	680
	<u>2,810</u>

In 1913, MR.H.C. Smith, owing to breakdown in health, went to live at Ansdell, near Lytham. He removed to Didsbury five years later, and continued to be active head of the company until 1922. He returned to Earby in 1929, but within a month he passed away. He was well known as one of Earby's distinctive characters in bygone days.

- *Craven Herald and Pioneer November 18th 1938 (p5)*

Earby Through 60 Years

School Board Election Recalled

Thornton Rector's Retort to Opponent

(by John Hartley)

Arising out of the last article, a friend of mine has reminded me of an interesting incident relating to the late Mr. Parker Greenwood, of Glen Farm.

It occurred during a keenly contested School Board election when "Parker" and the Rev. L.B. Morris, the rector of the parish, were keen contestants. "Parker" attended the meeting in the old Victoria Institute, and heckled the rector upon a matter in which he was particularly interested. The replies he got to his questions did not satisfy him, and as he persisted in "holding the floor," Mr. Morris reminded him, in good humoured fashion, of an old Earby saying: "That there was only a quart of sense in Earby and the "Dicks" had three gills on't." The retort caused much merriment, as the "Dicks" were one of the most numerous and well known of old Earby families, and "Parker's" mother was a member of that clan.

There is no doubt that "Parker" enjoyed these verbal duels with the rector, and that he was "worthy of his steel," for while they differed in many matters affecting politics and local government, "Parker" held the rector in high esteem. "Parker" was "getting on a bit" when he got married, and he went to see Mr. Morris before the event took place to make sure that he did the job himself. He wanted a "reight" man, and not a curate!

A few days ago I had a chat with Mr. John Edmondson, Skipton Road, whose father and grandfather were former occupiers of the White Lion Inn and the adjoining farm. He kindly offered to give me more interesting particulars of old Earby people and customs, which go back a little more than sixty years.

Veritable Swamp

About a century ago the low-lying ground between Foulridge and Earby was a veritable swamp for the greater portion of the year, and the part bordering on Salterforth was known as "Salterforth Lake." A drainage board was appointed by Government Commissioners and the meetings of the board were held in the vestry of Thornton-in-Craven Parish Church. Four large drains were made, called Kelbrook Bottoms Drain, Earby Holmes Drain, Stone Trough Drain and Lancashire Gill Drain. The reclaimed land on each side of the main stream was allotted to the farms on the neighbouring hillsides. From Sough Bridge to Earby, on the east side, one field was attached to Tunstead Farm, and the next field to Moor Hall Farm. Through this field, and a small meadow over the beck, the Moor Hall estate had a right of way on to the Colne and Skipton highway.

The second field from the Earby end was formerly in two parts, one of which belonged to the White Lion Farm, and the other part of John o' Dicks Farm, which was scattered around the village. The first field at the bottom of Langroyd Lane belonged to Waddington Fold Farm, and was called "Wadd Holme." The Kelbrook portion was known as Kelbrook Bottoms, and the Earby section as Earby Holmes.

The fields on the west side of the beck were principally allocated to White House Farm.

The White Lion Farm at one time comprised 110 acres, and extended up the Banks to the edge of Coolham Farm.

When the Bracewells came from Thornton Hall to Green End they acquired many of the Earby farms from Sir John Kaye, who was the lord of the manor. Many alterations were carried out, some old farmhouses were pulled down, and some farms, or portions of them, were joined to others.

"Nicky's Farm"

When the Edmondsons, who occupied the White Lion estate, had their farm lands restricted, they took over Cowgill's Farm, the farm buildings being situated at the far end of Water Street, the main thoroughfare in the old part of the village. This farm previously got its name from the people who occupied it, and before the Cowgill family were the tenants it was known as "Nicky's Farm." "Nicky's" farmhouse used to occupy the land where

Selbourne Terrace now stands. The term "Nicky," which was applied to one branch of the Wilkinson clan, was not a proper name, and it is due to them to note that they were highly esteemed, and many of them have risen to distinction in various walks of life.

The names of the Wilkinson families used to be a real puzzle, and at one time there were at least a dozen John Wilkinsons living in Earby, each of whom had a "nickname" given to them for purposes of distinction. Some of them are well remembered, including John o'Dick's, John o'Nicky's, John o'Peggy's, John o'Phyllis's, John o'Bett's, Jack o Bessie's, Young Jack o'Bessie's, Jack o'Lucy's and Quaat John.

A peculiar feature about the Dicks family was that John o' Dick's had twelve children but his brother "Joa" had none. When "Joa" wanted a farmer's man he used to take one of his brother's lads when they were old enough to work. Thus it came about that some of John's children were called after their father and some after his brother. The writer remembers "Bill o' Joa o' Dicks" keeping a grocers shop just below Cowgill's farm, and his brother, "Hartley o' John o' Dicks," working the blacksmith's shop on the opposite side of the beck. Old Dr. Roberts, of Barnoldswick, the parish doctor, had "Bill o' Joa o' Dick's" shop for his calling place on his periodic visits.

There used to be a good story told of a lad who was sent on an errand to James Brown's corner shop a little further down the road. The lad burst into the shop exclaiming "A' want a pound o' butter." "If what?" - asked Miss Lizzie Brown, evidently bent on teaching the lad some manners. "If a' can't get it here," was his reply "A've to goa to Bill o' Joa o' Dick's"

The Smiths At Coolham

Mr. Edmondson remembered "Jim o'Jam's" family living at Coolham Farm. There was an elder brother called Michael, who looked after the farm mainly. At hay time they borrowed a horse from the White Lion Farm. Eventually they bought one, and Michael was highly proud as he drove the horse and cart up the steep Stoneybank Road. The horse, evidently, was unused to toiling up hill, and it "stalled." Do what he could Michael couldn't make the horse start again, much to the delight of the men in Stoneybank Quarry. So Michael addressed the horse in the following terms: "Na' tha'rt a bright 'un, coming to't Coolham for a bit o' haytime an' stalling wi' an empty cart!"

There was another brother named Jack, who was accustomed to roam about the hillside with a gun. Getting over a stile one day he stumbled: the gun exploded in his face and blinded him. His son "Jim o' Jack's," is still living in Stoneybank Road.

The Shuttleworth Family

The Shuttleworths, one of the most numerous and well known clans of farmers, had their origin at Moor Hall. Two of them settled at Kelbrook; Tom lived on one side of the beck, and James on the other side. James married a sister of Abraham and Sam Sunderland, who succeeded them at Moor Hall. James had three sons, Tom, Bill and Jack. Two of Tom Shuttleworth's sons, Jim and Bob, came to live at the Thornton Hall Farm when they were quite young. Jim was one of the best known members of the Shuttleworth stock, and served the Thornton parish as local guardian and representative on the district council for a long period. Before the opening of the Midland Railway in 1848 Bob used a donkey with panniers to convey the milk to North Holme.

Another of old James Shuttleworth's sons, Bill, settled at North Holme, Earby, and the family built the substantial farm buildings and dwelling-house. The same farm is still in the family, Mr Emanuel Shuttleworth and his son being in charge.

The Kelbrook James Shuttleworth had a son called Jack, and his daughter Ann, was married to her cousin, Charles Shuttleworth. Charlie, as he was generally known, took the Grange Farm, and followed with a term as landlord at the Punch Bowl Inn. In 1896 he started manufacturing at the Victoria Mill, and he was the first chairman of the Earby Manufacturers Association. The business is now carried on by his sons, George and Edgar. George had a good term of service on the Earby Urban District Council. He is also the chairman of the directors of the Earby Manufacturing Co., Ltd. Another son of Jack Shuttleworth's, William, went to Southfields, between Thornton and Marton, and at one time he and his brother, Bolton, occupied Thornton Hall.

The Edmondsons

This well known family had their origin at Tunstead, but Richard, the grandfather of Mr. John Edmondson, moved to the little cluster of farms and cottages known as "Higher Stone Trough," on the old road from Kelbrook to

Foulridge. They had the first farm, nearest Kelbrook, and from this place they moved to Earby, to the White Lion Inn and farm adjoining. His wife was a sturdy, independent character, and she saw to the management of the village inn. She was known to every one as "Owd Mary," and she was often appealed to settle an argument. On one occasion a knife was brought to her, and she was asked to adjudicate as to what kind of material the handle was made of - none of them could tell. "That's easy to tell," replied Mary; " It's wood or summat!"

But woe betide anyone who tried to take a "rise" out of her. Once, only once, she was brought before the magistrates at Skipton, and charged by the Inland Revenue officer with using a pint pot which was not up to the standard in size. Now this pot belonged to one of the farm servants, but the officer would not listen to any explanations. The chairman of the bench said to "Owd Mary" - "Mrs. Edmondson, are you accustomed to serve a pint of beer in this pot?" "How can I," she replied, "when you say it doesn't hold a pint?" Needless to say "Owd Mary" won the day.

Richard Edmondson had two sons, William and Richard. When the father died William resided with his mother, but Richard settled at Cowgarth, a good farm on the outskirts of the village. William was also a carrier to Colne and Skipton markets, and was one of the best known and punctual carriers on the roads. William Edmondson married Jane Wormwell, from Lane Head Farm, Laneshawbridge. She was the aunt of Jim and Harry Wormwell, two of the best known builders and quarry workers in Kelbrook and Earby. William Edmondson had two children who survived childhood, and in addition to the son John there was a daughter, Mary Ann, who married a Skipton businessman, Mr. Matthew Gaunt, who was associated with Mr. John Hogg, auctioneer and valuer.

Love At First Sight

John Edmondson was born on November 12th, 1858, and is now well advanced in his 80th year. He married a Thornton lady, Ann Brunskill, whose father, Hartley Brunskill, at one time lived at Malsis, near Glusburn, and later at Foulridge. Miss Brunskill was the first infant mistress at the Earby Wesleyan Day School. Mr. John Edmondson fondly related how he first saw Miss Brunskill in the village of Thornton as he was returning with his father with the carriers cart from Skipton. "I couldn't keep my eyes off her, and I fell 'head over heels' in love with her." She wore a frock made of Scotch plaid material with an open neck, and he avers, "I never saw such a beautiful picture in all my life."

Mr. Edmondson wound up the account of his recollections by referring to the hard times and the poverty of which he had heard the old folk tell. At one time his grandfather had a cow calved, and the cow had to be killed because the calf had two heads. The meat was snatched up eagerly by the poor people, as it could not be offered for sale, and one man from Harden came late, but he carried the head in a sack over the hill to his dwelling place. Handloom weavers often had long journeys, carrying their pieces to Colne, and even to Sutton near Crosshills.

The late Canon Morris appealed to the Charity Commissioners for help. Every house was visited, and a census taken of the inhabitants in need. In one instance, when the question was asked, "How many males and females?", the good woman of the house replied - "Nayther; we're all churchfolk." She wanted to make sure of receiving some help for her family.

Scenes Above the Clough

Amid their deprivations the people occasionally made merry, and one of the most notable occasions was "the opening of 'John o' Ned's 'en 'oil." He was a queer character this John o'Ned's, but usually a quiet, harmless sort of man. He lived at 't' Fiddling Clough,' which was rather like a hospital (a refuge), where anybody without a home of their own could find lodging. He took it into his head to build a new 'en 'oil (hen cote) on the edge of Wentworth Moor. above the clough, and he had a lot of chaff to take; but he astounded all his mates by telling them there was going to be an "opening," and a "reight good do." He actually got the consent of the village brass band to come, and some sports of a very primitive nature were arranged. The band led a motley procession through the streets of Earby, and there was no lack of spectators, who followed in their train. Some of the processionists were on ponies and donkeys, some had their trouser linings turned out, and there were others who carried strings of dumplings, and other eatables. Up the Mill Brow they went, over the Brigstones, up the Dark Lane, until they halted in a field on the edge of the moor. While the eatables were being prepared the donkey and pony races took place, to the unrestrained merriment of the crowd, and more than one rider was thrown over the head of the unwilling beast. Among the riders were two men, known as Bill and Harry "Coventry," because they were mechanics who had come from the Midland town to set up machinery in the mill. Then there were two tailor brothers, "Priest" and "Needles" (Jack and Billy Briden).

Eating dry teacakes was a tame affair compared with what followed - eating hot dumplings from a greasy plate without knife and fork. Behind the 'en 'oil there was some rising ground, and the contestants stood behind the stone structure, and their plates rested on a stone ledge or shelf. The exhibition was in full view of the hilarious

through, and no modern forms of entertainment could provide such a "star turn." In the fall of the evening dancing took place to the enlivening strains of the brass band, and actually at the close, someone struck up "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," because it was the beginning of a new life for "John o' Ned's." "It was a day!" said my informant, Mr. Edmonson, and he was there to see!

- Craven Herald and Pioneer July 22nd 1938

Earby Through 60 Years

Pot Sales, German Bands and Sangers Circus

How Children Were Entertained in the 'Eighties'

By John Hartley

In my earlier years I seemed to have had rather more than the average lad's experience of accidental escapades.

On one of our family's occasional pilgrimages to Gargrave my mother rode on the front seat of a "shandry" and on the return journey, somewhere near Banknewton, one of the shafts of the conveyance broke and she, with her second son who was only a few months old, were pitched into the hedge. Happily there were no serious consequences.

My first recollection is associated with an accidental occurrence. While my mother was making the beds I played on the bedroom floor with some toys and moving too near to the edge of the staircase which was only protected by a handrail, I rolled over and down the stone steps, bumping my head all the way down.

A singular feature of the early days of my brother and myself was that we started walking together, although he was eighteen months older. Charlie was weak in the back as a child and my father rolled him on the hearthrug for scores of hours to strengthen his body. A carriage was provided for us in which we sat "in state" side by side whenever we were taken out visiting or had fresh air exercise.

My father was very fond of playing with young children in the early evening hours after tea and as he danced them about he would sing something like this :

"Tee I Tom Tittle, Tee I Tom Tittle,
Tee I Tom Tittle , Tom Tay Re Am,"

or "The Jolly Miller" and "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home Again".

Other experiences of those days which stand out indelibly clear are associated with our Sunday nights, when, too young to go to chapel, we sat around our mother's knee on the hearthrug. Sometimes she would sing to us some of her favourite Wesley hymns set to old tunes like "Irish", "Devises", "Justification and "Flevation". Then after we had said our prayers we retired to rest with the mother's kiss of blessing bestowed upon us.

I had a very painful experience when in the first standard at school. As a result of a playful push from one of my school mates after we had finished our lessons, I slipped back against the wall with my hands behind the hot pressure pipes and my feet up against the desk as fast as if I were in a vice. There was pandemonium for a minute or two until I was released by my teacher, Mr Albert Brown, and he carried me into the schoolmaster's house. To this day I retain a scar of two inches in length at the back of each hand "to witness if I lie"

An Alarming Episode

My worst adventure was associated with the cricket field. I was very fond of running on to the crease after one side had completed their innings and pushing behind the heavy stone roller. On this particular occasion I went clean over, toppling a somersault on the way. One man alone saw me go over, "Tosh" Jackson - the rest were looking the other way. He called out in alarm and after the roller was stopped and backed I was lifted up. What a sensational relief! I was scalped a bit: my cranium was crushed in but not broken and the depression still abides. In imagination I can still hear "Tosh" saying to me in his customary drawling fashion, "By gow Johnnie but tha'd nearly bin done for". "Tosh" (Edmondson Jackson) is still with us in lives in "Cat Gate" (Riley Street).

About 1880 the last portion of the village green was absorbed when Mr. James Dodgson built five dwelling houses to complete White Lion Street. Thus the village lads were left without any ground to play their games upon. A substitute site often made use of was the road where there was a junction between the top of Riley Street and the top of Aspen Lane with Green End Road. But there were two meadows on one side, one called "Topsy" belonging to the White Lion Farm and the other "Tranmire", belonging to Green End Farm. If the cricket balls went over into the meadows there was a constant risk of trouble. On the one hand there was Bill Edmundson, the keeper of the White Lion, who used to make a raid on the lads and carry off all their tackle he could lay his hands on. They were never seen again and in consequence he earned the nickname of "Owd Grab All". On the other hand, the master of Green End, who was unceremoniously referred to as, "Owd Kit", used to apply his stick pretty freely to the hinder part of lads anatomy, sometimes with dire consequences.

Another small plot of "laking land" at the bottom of Earby, near Ireland Bridge, was built upon in 1886 for Harrison's Stores and adjoining shops.

For the observance of "Gunpowder Plot" there were three customary sites, Bob Nutters garden off Aspen Lane, Ireland Square and "T'op o't Town". Earby lads of that time will recollect the accident to William Turner (Willika o'Tinker's) when he had one of his eyes blown out with a squib.

Pot Sales

A frequent source of interest to young lads, as well as the older people, were the visits of pot vendors, who used to take their stands on vacant land at the end of the mill where is now the entrance to the Conservative Club. The naphtha lamps with their glowing flares lighted up the faces of the central figure as well as the crowd and as he made his jokes to keep his patrons in good humour it was as good as a pantomime to us. These men did good business too as Earby people were generally accounted to be thrifty, and many an "old stocking" was raided to secure the "prize" of a full tea service set which was carried home in triumph in a clothes basket.

There was an indirect beneficial result to the lads who were requisitioned to go round the village shouting "Pot Sale to-night", and they were rewarded with plates and soup dishes which furnished their tables for many years.

The spare land was a good "stand" for open air meetings and one incident is well remembered of a visit of a very popular temperance evangelist, Mr. W.H Harrison, of Manchester, who was always accompanied by a small American organ. It was a short meeting during the dinner hour and before the people returned to their work in the adjoining mill he sang "There's a good time coming boys" and when he had finished his song one of the spinners called out as a parting shot - "Can you tell us when, mister?" Loud and long was the laughter as the people filed away to resume their toil.

German Bands

German bands were frequent visitors to our village, and the place being noted for its musical community, it was a happy treasure ground for them. They were usually about eight in number and after they had played a couple of pieces two of them were set free to make the collection from the neighbouring houses, which they did with commendable diligence. They apparently regarded their task very seriously and were not so sociable, but soon moved to another quarter to continue their work for the Fatherland.

Italian organ-grinders were more popular, especially if they had a monkey perched upon the organ and the men were always of a smiling, dancing, carefree disposition.

A very attractive visitor was the man who could play several instruments at once, with his head, his hands, his feet in addition to his mouth, making much a-do with his bells clappers and drum.

Of these touring musicians, the palm must be given to a man and his wife whom we Green End-ers styled "Sir Robert and Lady Mary". He played the violin with astonishing skill and she serenaded the people with homely, sentimental songs in a most captivating manner. Down through the flight of years her voice rings out sweet and clear :-

"O, the sunny, the sunny hours of childhood,
How soon, how soon they pass away;
Like the flowers, the flowers in the wildwood,
That once bloomed fresh and gay."

The scene, on a late summer evening, with scores of people listening in spell bound admiration as they stood upon their doorsteps or clustered round the singers was a delightful experience which would never be forgotten, The couple, who had no doubt, seen better days, and had a weakness for the convivial cup. on the completion of their promenade through the village entertained the company at the White Lion Inn for the rest of the evening.

Trawden Band Concerts

The brass band contests at Trawden, and later at Colne, were a great attraction for Earby men and for lads who used to make the journey on foot. The Trawden contest was held on Good Friday, but this was supplanted by the Colne people , who arranged one for the Saturday following, much to the annoyance of the Trawden people. What a place Colne was on the occasion of these Saturday encounters! The long main street, from the railway station to the top of Skipton Road, was crammed with people and to make "the confusion worse confounded" the weekend market was held in the narrowest part of the thoroughfare. The as band after band played up to their respective inns , where they were billeted for the day, the scene was tumultuous in the extreme. We Earby lads made sure of getting into the coffee tavern at the top of Windy Bank in good time: and what a rare "do" we had! Of the luxury of a meat pie with gravy, as big as a saucer, and custard about the same size and a large pot of tea - all for 6d. Then to the contest field in the Swan Croft, when we were inclined.

One year, I think it was 1886, there was Sanger's Circus at Nelson and a parade through the streets; so we trudged on to Nelson to see the fun of the fair. The animals were divided into sections and somehow we found ourselves trotting behind the elephants, and we kept on, although we were nearly "dead beat" when we reached the field where the circus was stationed. We didn't see so much of the procession, but we had seen the elephants. We managed to scrape enough money amongst us for the railway journey back to Colne and we were very tired and hungry lads when we reached Green End that night.

A Mill Fire

The greatest calamity which befell our village in my early days was the mill fire. It was the first Saturday in January (5th day) in the year 1884. People were just lolling about after they had finished their dinner when all at once there was a scurrying and scuttering in every street and one cry rent the air as it was passed from one to another, "T'mill's a-fire!". In a few minutes hundreds of villagers had gathered in the road at the end and round the side of the mill and looked on the work of destruction in a helpless dismay. Every ladder about the place was up the mill chimney and although the mill fire brigade and mechanics got to work, their task was hopeless. The only thing that could be done was to save the engine house and the short end and this was accomplished. During the afternoon the Skipton fire brigade arrived as well as the manual engine from Dewhurst's Mill and they all worked desperately hard with the Earby men to save what was possible. Mills in those days were not fire-proof and the oily machinery and floors provided inflammable material ready to hand for a big fire.

To an industrial village community, a disaster of that nature is one of the first magnitude, an no-one who lived through that week-end in Earby will ever forget the dreadful experience. There was the heavy financial loss to the Bracewell family, which was estimated at £25,000, and only partially covered by insurance. The loss of livelihood to scores of workers could not be tabulated and some must have suffered severe privation. There were some who obtained work in the mills in the neighbouring towns and villages, while some spinners who went to Bracewell's Mill at Oak Mount, Burnley, suffered a worse fate than befell them in Earby, because they were burnt out when the place was running, and had to flee for their lives, leaving some of their clothes in the doomed mill. The Rev Samuel Chadwick, who became president of the Wesleyan Conference, was a four loom weaver at Oak Mount Mill when it was in possession of the Bracewell's. It had formerly belonged to the Hopwood family, into which both Mr.Christopher and Mr. Henry Bracewell married.

Fortunately for Earby people, the larger part of Victoria Mill which had been destroyed was rebuilt, and the machinery was restarted early in 1885.

Earby Through 60 Years

School Masters and School Companions

Haytime Truant Who Went For Beer

(By John Hartley)

The Education Act of 1870 necessitated the provision of approved schools for the education of children under thirteen years of age, and our village was fortunately placed in that respect. The Old Grammar School, built in 1594, was still in effective use as a day school; and a model school, of that period, was erected by the Wesleyan community, assisted by subscriptions by sympathetic supporters.

From the outset, the school was well staffed, Mr. Samuel Leach being the first headmaster, with Miss. Ann Brunskill as infant mistress, and they were assisted by Mrs. Leach and pupil teachers.

When my school days started, Miss. Wright, of Skipton, had succeeded Miss. Brunskill, who married Mr. John Edmonson. Miss. Wright was a kind and sympathetic teacher, and won the affection of the children committed to her care. A similar tribute is due to Miss. Brunskill, although her period of service was not so prolonged, and she remained in the village a very highly respected lady until her decease a few years ago. Miss. Wright married Mr. Stirk, of Crosshills, and she later retired to Morecambe, and passed away only a few months ago.

My recollection of Mr. Leach is that of an efficient and painstaking master, who liked to see work well and neatly done, but who was rather inclined to be partial to some of his favourite scholars. On the other hand it must be admitted that he had some very raw material to deal with, and a schoolmasters position in those days was hardly a "bed of roses."

Discipline was a cardinal feature of school life at that time, and when the infliction of corporal punishment was resented by some big raw-boned lad there was sometimes a scuffle in the large room of the classroom, to the discomfiture of the master, "when the wool began to fly." The practice of "making an example" of a lad, to impart fear into the rest, has happily been discarded.

At heart, Mr. Leach was a kindly disposed man, and I received many tokens of his genuine goodwill. He was a keen lover of music, as were his wife and daughter (Louisa and Bessie), and they were very zealous in promoting musical culture among the young people.

An Eminent Journalist

Mr. Albert Brown, who had two older brothers in the scholastic profession, was my favourite teacher when I was in the lower standards, and he constantly showed me great kindness. He always wore a most charming smile, and he was the soul of good nature. He gave up teaching for journalism, and joined the staff of the "Pioneer" at Skipton. He won, by competition, a position of distinction in Ceylon, where he was the official reporter to the Legislative Assembly. On returning to this country he had a meritorious career on several important journals in England and Scotland as sub-editor and editor. His last appointment was the editorship of the "Southport Times."

At the outset of his career he won a Society of Arts first-class certificate, and I recollect how I was fascinated at school with his hymn book, which had been transcribed into beautiful shorthand.

The departure of Mr. Leach for Ingleton, where he entered into business, coincided with the close of the Bracewell regime, and among the changes in the village one of the most noteworthy was our change of schoolmaster. Mr. James Lindley, who came to Earby from Aspull, near Wigan, was an ideal schoolmaster, and, with perhaps a few exceptions, he won the affectionate regard of succeeding generation of children who for 35 years came under the influence of his magnetic personality. He had a fine presence, of tall commanding appearance, with an open countenance, and withal eager, buoyant and full of enthusiasm for his new charge. I immediately came under his spell, to my lasting good, and I yield to no one in grateful appreciation of his sterling character and invaluable service to the community.

A short time after he entered on his new duties he offered a prize medal for the boy and the girl who made the most progress during the year. I resolved to make a strenuous attempt to secure the medal, although I was handicapped by having started to work half time at the mill two months prior to this offer being made. I made up for the shorter length of time at school by early rising, getting up at the same time each day as when I had to go to work in the mill. So for more than two hours each morning I was engaged in writing, drawing maps, working out problems in arithmetic and making myself proficient in spelling and reading. I had a further advantage, as my brother was in a higher standard, and when we were doing our homework in the evening, I used to attempt the same exercises in the various branches of learning. It was one of the happiest days of my life when my name was associated with the desired distinction.

The girl who won the similar award was Carrie Bradshaw, who lived next door to us at Green End.

"In Disgrace"

Before the summer holidays started, Mr.Lindley arranged a "break up" concert, to take place on a Saturday evening. On that occasion I played truant and brought myself into temporary disgrace. Before I entered into my teen years I was very fond of hay making, and on this occasion I had been "engaged" by Mr.George Andrews of Lane Ends Farm, to work in the hay during my spare time for 2d an hour. Mr.Andrews, who also owned Crowbeckle Farm, near the station, where he resided, was a retired stationmaster, and also proprietor of a coal business, which had previously belonged to his parents.

This particular Saturday was gloriously fine, and, as the beer allowance ran short, I was commandeered to go to the White Lion Inn for a further supply. On returning down the main village street I met Mr.Lindley face to face at the mill corner. He was returning, in great haste, from a political meeting at Barnoldswick, which had been addressed by r.Herbert Gladstone. There I stood, just clad in my shirt, fustian trousers and clogs, with a gallon bottle of beer in my right hand, when I should have been at school, attired in my "Sunday best," to take the part of "King John" in a Shakespearean play. Mr.Lindley said little - he was too taken aback - but his look of painful reproach never faded from my imagination. I knew, however, that there were other boys who could take my place.

Twelve months later, an opportunity was afforded to me to atone in some measure for my misdemeanour. It was the annual school examination, and on those occasions we went in a "spick and span" condition to the school to help to maintain the school's reputation, because the grants depended upon results. The full - time scholars were examined in the morning, in the main subjects, and the half-timers in the afternoon. There were not so many of us, and I was the only one in the sixth standard. For the composition test I was told by the "H.M.I." (who, I think was Mr.Sedgwick) to write an essay on "Some great man." After a moments reflection I chose to write on "Sir Walter Raleigh." When the task was completed the inspector took in hand the foolscap sheets. With Mr.Lindley by his side he scanned through the paper, then he looked down at the writer, and a short conversation followed. The look of pleased approbation on their faces has ever since been one of the inspirations of my life.

Last School Holiday

On the following morning the examination took place in special subjects, drawing, grammar and geography, and at Mr.Lindley's request I changed turns at the mill to attend school. The scholars had holiday in the afternoon, and I missed that holiday, which went rather against the grain, as that was my last school holiday that came my way. I continued working half-time as a doffer in the mill, and went half time learning to weave, until I was ready for two looms, two months before I was old enough to be "passed" by the doctor for full time working.

Some of the school mates with whom I had happy fellowship at various stages of my school career were John and Henry Speak (twins), who were born the day after me; W.Waterworth ("Willie Watter"), Fred Smith ("Fred at Coolham"), Edmund Greenwood ("Neddy Green"), Jack Carlisle, and my cousin Tom Hartley.

About the time I left the school another lad appeared, with whom I was destined to enjoy very intimate friendship, which has persisted through all the intervening years. The lad was Amos Fletcher, familiarly called "Mossie" by his family and friends. His father was a joiner by trade and came from the Midlands to find work for himself and his family of fine children. Unhappily his health broke down, and the family had a hard struggle "to keep the wolf from the door." Under the circumstances in which she was placed, the mother struggled bravely and I never saw a house more scrupulously clean, or children more tidy.

My friend found employment in the warehouse of Messrs. Moorhouse and Hartley, and one by one the other children found work (Herbert is secretary to the House of Resurrection, Mirfield, and Joe is occupying an important insurance post in Canada.) At that time we lads were much indebted for the extra interest Mr.Lindley took in us after we had left the day school. There was no properly organised evening classes as now, although occasional science classes were held at the Baptist School and the Village Institute. At the Wesleyan School a Mutual Improvement Class was formed, of which Mr.Lindley was the leading spirit, and he invited the youths associated with the class to a private class in the school for the study of English Grammar and Literature, and he made no charge for the services he rendered to us. The youths shared in the secretarial duties of the "Mutual," and occasionally gave short papers. We invited teachers and lecturers from neighbouring towns, and in successive years we had visits from Professor Vallance, the famous elocutionist, of Glasgow.

We were also regular attenders of Mr.Lindley's Society Class and Adult Bible Class. The "Mutual" had a good career of ten years, when it was succeeded by the Wesley Guild.

A Shorthand Teacher

Mainly through reading Dicken's favourite novel, "David Copperfield," Mr.Fletcher became interested in shorthand, and attended a class at Barnoldswick, taught by Mr.Tom Smith. He gave himself unsparingly to the study of the art, and became a very efficient writer. While still in his "teens" he commenced to teach a shorthand class in the Wesleyan School, and he was the local correspondent of the "Craven Herald" for a few years.

Along with Mr.Fred Heelis, a distinguished Skiptonian, and a fine exponent of the "winged art," he joined the staff of a shorthand academy at the Northern Institute, Park Row, Leeds.They both secured engagements as visiting masters at schools and colleges in the West Riding, and were subsequently appointed as examiners in commercial subjects by the West Riding County Council Education Committee. In recent years Mr.Fletcher has been the managing director of a typewriter company's business at Leeds, while Mr.Heelis became the Principal of Pitman's famous Metropolitan School, and later a director and governor of the publishing house of the same name.

A Touching Farewell

About fifteen months ago I was in the principal street of Wakefield, along with Mr.James Demain (having been to County Hall on educational matters) when a motor car pulled up, and Mr.Fletcher came running after us. He, along with his wife, were on their way to Sheffield on business. After a brief conversation we arranged to go on to Doncaster to see Mr.Lindley, who had been very ill and had just returned from a nursing home. We were allowed by the nurse to see him for five minutes, and the scene was most impressive. The old master's delight in beholding once more two of his oldest scholars and friends was unbounded, and his face beamed with joy as he greeted and conversed with us. A few weeks later he passed on to his reward.

My friend shared with me that feeling of sincere affection for one of the noblest-minded men who ever came into association with the people of Earby, and if any success or worth of character has been attained by us we could say with Charles Kingsley, "We had a friend."

Charles Watsons son, Leslie, carried on the joinery business, and was also the local Earby undertaker, carrying on the business from the Skipton Road premises.

Charles Watson was also a member of the jury at the coroners inquest into the murder of Eliza Cudworth, see - The Earby murder of 1892 by J.A.Walker.

Passing of Earby Musician

The Death of Mr. Levi Turner

The funeral took place at Earby Cemetery, on Saturday, of Mr. Levi Turner, of Hill Crest, 22 School Lane, Earby, who died the previous Wednesday after a long illness.

Mr. Turner, who was 70, had been a school teacher; and through his profession and wide interests had become a well known personality in West Craven. Before settling in Earby he occupied positions in Kent and in Sheffield. Later he taught at Barnoldswick Church School for 29 years where he earned profound respect for his ability and kindliness.

For many years Mr. Turner was chairman of the Earby Cricket Club during an important period in its history, and he always maintained his keen interest in the game and in the local club. Another of his interests was horticulture, and he was a consistently successful exhibitor at local shows. His knowledge of rose cultivation is still a byword amongst "old Earbyers." In politics, too, he was active in a long association with the Liberal Club.

Mr. Turner's crowning achievements, however, were in connection with his work as choirmaster of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, a position which he held with distinction for 31 years. A musician of no mean ability he studied the organ at Rochester Cathedral and was for many years a member of Dr. Coward's choir. Up to his marriage he was organist at the Skipton Road Methodist Church, Colne, and in 1900 he became choirmaster at Earby.

His period of office was memorable for Earby music lovers, partly for the skilful and moving presentation of such oratorios as "Elijah," "Messiah," and "The Creation" and partly for his enterprise in introducing to Earby audiences

such artistes as Dora Labbette, Sydney Coltham and Norman Allin. In lighter vein he was equally talented, and his spectacular productions of "Merry England," "Highwayman Love" and "Dogs o' Devon" are still remembered. Some years ago, along with Mr. E. Berry, the well-known organist, Mr. Turner was presented with an inscribed gold watch in appreciation of his services to Mount Zion Baptist Church and choir.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner celebrated their golden wedding last March.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. G. Metcalfe, B.A., B.D., and the Rev. J. Tinker, now of Bradford and formerly pastor of the Mount Zion Church. Tributes were paid to Mr. Turner's fine record of service in church work.

The mourners were as follows: Mrs. Levi Turner (widow), Mr. Clifford Turner (son), Miss Millicent Turner (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Smith (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. James Wormwell (brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. J. Bushby, Mrs. R. Wormwell, Mr. and Mrs. W. Cowgill, Mrs. Walter Turner, Mr. John Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Granville Pinder, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Wormwell, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hartley, Mr. Albert Hartley, Mrs. Snowden.

There were also present representatives of Mount Zion Baptist Church choir, the Earby Cricket Club and the Earby Liberal Club.

Floral tributes included wreath from the officers and leaders of Mount Zion Baptist Sunday School, and from Mount Zion Baptist Church.

The Craven Herald, September 6th, 1946

Youth Hostel Commemorates a Famous Earby Lady

Noted Public Figures Attend Opening at Glen Cottage

For 28 years, Glen Cottage, Earby, was an ever-open door.

The occupant, Mrs. Katherine Bruce Glasier, would welcome any traveller, no matter how humble his station, and offer warmth, rest and food. Now the cottage will offer shelter for the traveller for ever, for on Saturday, greatly converted, it was officially opened as a youth hostel, a memorial to one described as "one of the greatest women of her age."

Leaders of the Labour movement, including the Rt. Hon. J. Griffiths, deputy leader of the Labour Party, travelled from all parts of the country to pay a final tribute to a woman who, by her vision and campaigning zeal, helped to build the Labour movement from modest beginnings. They remembered her pioneering work for many social reforms, notably in the field of nursery schools and in working conditions for the miners. Officials of the Youth Hostels Association represented the organisation which, in future, will be trustees of the memorial. And throughout, Mrs. Glasier's love for her fellow men and of high religious principles, were remembered with deep affection.

The occasion must have been a touching one for her son, Mr. Malcolm Bruce Glasier, now managing director of Elder Dempster Lines, the shipping company, who was accompanied by his wife. He looked round the much changed cottage which had for so long been his mother's home, where she had known happiness and tragedy. He heard people who had known her since they were children pay warm, sincere tributes to her fine character and beneficial work. Mr. Glasier was well pleased with it all. He told a Craven Herald and Pioneer reporter, "I think the whole scheme has been excellently devised and splendidly carried out. I feel sure my mother would have been delighted too. While the cottage has altered a great deal, yet it retains much of my mother's character."

"Her Angels"

Our reporter talked with Mr. Glasier in the muniments room, where young hostellers will be able to enjoy peace and quiet. Looking down on them, smiling always, will be a restored portrait of Mrs. Glasier, painted by John Mansbridge, whose father Dr. Albert Mansbridge, founded the Workers' Educational Association. Facing is a picture of her husband, Mr. Bruce Glasier (an architect who gave up a lucrative practice to write, speak and work for social reform), while furnishings include Mrs. Glasier's bookcase, bureau and table. Later, pictures of her

"angels," the people with whom she most liked to be surrounded and whose pictures always graced her home, will be added. They are Walt Whitman, G.B. Shaw, Kier Hardy, Mrs. Glendower Evans, Ghandi, Sir Raymond and Lady Unwin and J.W. Wallace. Mr. Glasier told our reporter that his sister, Jeannie, who is married and now lives in Australia, had sent her good wishes for the occasion.

A plaque on the wall of the hostel was unveiled by Miss. Miriam Lord of Bradford, who worked with Mrs. Glasier in many of her fights for social reform.

Introducing her, Counc. H.W. Waterworth, chairman of Earby Urban District Council, said the cottage had sentimental associations for him, since his father and mother had lived in it, and his eldest brother was born there. Mr. Waterworth said they who lived in Earby knew of the good work Mrs. Glasier had done in the district; others present would know of her achievements nationally.

Margaret Macmillan

Miss Lord said that she loved Mrs. Glasier from the bottom of her heart. Miss Lord referred to the Margaret Macmillan fund, with which she is associated, set up as a memorial to one with whom Mrs. Glasier had a close association.

Miss. Lord said it was appropriate that the ceremony should be taking place on the anniversary of Mrs. Glasier's marriage. The lady they were that day honouring would be saying "splendid" and Miss. Lord continued "the radiance of her spirit is thrilling through this building. She is here with us now. She loved beauty and colour."

Recalling one of her favourite quotations, "As we give so we live," Miss. Lord said Mrs. Glasier had given to all who asked with both hands. She had given the gathered jewels of her whole life, and the speaker recalled how, on her eightieth birthday, she had been presented with a beautiful dressing gown and pair of slippers. The next time she saw the slippers they were on the feet of a poor refugee lady to whom Mrs. GLasier had given shelter. The speaker said that she pointed out that the slippers had been given to Mrs. Glasier, to which she received the reply "How better can I see them than on someone else."

The hostel, Miss. Lord ended, was given for youth. Her spirit would be rejoicing, and she would be with and over that company; her angels would ever shine over the hostel. It gave her the greatest pleasure and privilege of her life to unveil the plaque, she declared.

Famed Rose Grower

Mr. Harry Wheatcroft, the internationally renowned rose grower, a friend late Mrs. Glasier, had travelled from Nottingham for the occasion, and presented her daughter-in-law with a beautiful bunch of roses. He has undertaken to stock the beautiful natural garden with roses in perpetuity.

Mr. Griffiths, who has been president and treasurer of the Katherine Bruce Glasier Memorial Fund, said when one wished to pay tribute to a great lady, memory itself turned the pages, revealing snapshots. His first snapshot, Mr. Griffiths recalled, went back to days, happy in retrospect, before the 1914-18 war, before the age of tumult from which the world had not yet emerged. It was at a conference at Merthyr Tydfil that he had first met the Bruce Glasiers, when he was a delegate, and fell under the influence of them, and people like them. Kiel Hardie was present.

Mrs. Glasier would have liked the gathering to think of her and her husband as a great partnership. They belonged to great generation of people who came to the Labour movement because they felt that to have full lives, there must be established a society calling forth the best in all men. Their roots were deep in religion, and they treasured highly their ethical values. Theirs was an ideal of giving not receiving. They practised Christian Socialism, and it was good in these days when we were so busy with the events of the world that crowd on us, to remember that was the fountain from which all sprang.

Religion First

Quoting Mr. Glasier as saying Socialism was more closely related to religion than to politics, more to saints than statesmen, Mr. Griffiths said Mrs. Glasier's favourite quotation was "As we give, so we live." That was the message of those early pioneers of the movement. Her socialism implied the socialism of all life, and she lived out that principle to the full. It was the secret of all happiness in life. The things a person enjoyed most, were the things he shared with others, and Mrs. Glasier was the greatest witness he knew to that great truth. It was

enriching to have met and known Mrs. Glasier, and a privilege he could not express in words. She was an idealist who poured her self out in service. She lived on the hills but came down into the valleys to work.

The labour leader went on to describe how he had been a miner himself, and he recalled seeing her on the platform, pleading with the miners to campaign for pit-head baths, to agitate for them and thus relieve the womenfolk of much work. Now there were baths, but she had a hard fight, and for a long time the miner would not get away from the old ideas. From that she lead on to a crusade for the emancipation of women. Miners throughout the world, realising the debt of gratitude they owed to her, had contributed to the fund as a tribute to this great lady, Mr. Griffiths declared.

Ever Young

His final recollection was when the Labour Party held power from 1945 to 1950. Some of those Ministers who had known her had thought they would like to entertain her in the House. They were the lucky ones; they had lived to see the fruits of her early pioneering, but she and those with her had served without hope of government, of winning elections or of gaining power.

Mrs. Glasier had visited the House of Commons and been entertained in a room there. She had been told of the work they were doing, the legislation they hoped to introduce and plans for the country. His final memory was of the leaders shaking hands with her, and as she reached the door she had turned round and said, "goodbye, I must go now. I have so much to tell Bruce."

Mr. Griffiths ended, "Although she lived to ripe old age, Mrs. Glasier was in spirit ever young to the end. There is something appropriate that this house, in which she spent so many years of her life, should go to the Youth Hostels Association. May her spirit inspire all who go in there. May the fellowship that inspired her life, abide in the hostel for ever more."

Mr. Arthur H. Dower, chairman of the Youth Hostels Association, paid tribute to the trustees of the fund, especially to the one who first had the idea, for going ahead with the scheme. To him, Mrs. Glasier had been for years only a name; now he knew she was someone they in the Association had sought for years, the genuine Youth Hosteller.

"I lift up mine eyes unto the hills," the Psalmist said, and that quotation meant a great deal to them, Mr. Dower continued. Not all Hostellers were potential social workers. Some merely used the hostels as a means of a cheap holiday. But some had dreams and saw visions, and it could be that perhaps someone in the mountains would see a great vision.

International Fellowship

Mrs. Glasier, the speaker continued, had striven for international fellowship; so did the Youth Hostels Association. He felt their organisation would have her keenest support and love, and that she would have agreed with bringing young people together to prove that the nations of the world were not potential enemies, but friends. He hoped those who used the hostel would be inspired and that some hosteller would, perhaps see a vision and would prove a guide through the world chaos to which the Labour movement had not yet found a way.

If such a person was found, he would be the true successor to Mrs. Glasier. "We will endeavour to be worthy trustees of this hostel, and make it a true shrine from which the spirit of Katherine Bruce Glasier will shine forth for ever," he concluded.

Mr. Malcolm Bruce Glasier briefly paid tribute to all who had been associated with the project, and he was quite sure his mother would have loved it, for while there had been many alterations, the cottage still retained its character. He expressed special delight that representatives were present from the Margaret Macmillan Training College at Bradford. Margaret Macmillan had been a very old friend of his mother's, and she would have been glad to know that the college was represented. Mr. Glasier also revealed that the chairman of the fund, and of the ceremony, Mr. Gilbert McAllister, had been responsible for first suggesting the cottage should be a youth hostel.

Mr. McAllister added his tribute and asked Mr. Glasier to send good wishes to his sister in Australia. Miss Elizabeth Wigglesworth, of Accrington, who, with Miss Lord, was always referred to as "my spiritual sisters," added her tribute.

Others present at the ceremony included Mr.P.J. Clarke, president of the Youth Hostels Association; Mr.L.J. Clark, treasurer, Y.H.A. ; Alderman Anderson, representing the West Riding Ramblers Association; Mr.A.S. Lynch, one of the fund trustees, as well as many other local and national friends of Mrs. Glasier's.

- Craven Herald and Pioneer June 27th 1958.

Birley's Mill is to Close Down

End of Famous Earby Textile Concern

Industrially, this has been another disappointing week for West Craven. On Friday, a letter to the workers at the firm of A.J.Birley Ltd., Albion Shed, told them that the firm is closing down with effect from May 1st. The firm, one of the oldest in the district, has been a pillar of Earby's industrial structure since the beginning of this century, and the fact that it is to close will be regretted throughout the area. About 140 workers will be affected.

Three days later, on Monday, Mr. F. Wilkinson, who combines the duties of clerk to Barnoldswick Urban Council and secretary of the Barnoldswick & Earby Joint Industrial Development Committee, announced that negotiations which have been taking place with a prospective industrialist will not come to fruition. The firm, Burco Dean Ltd., a nationally renowned firm of electrical appliance manufacturers, was the one referred to by Mr.G.B. Drayson, M.P. for the Skipton division, when he met the Development Committee last month.

The firm was contacted by Mr. Wilkinson following information he received from Mr. Drayson, and from another source, and representatives visited Barnoldswick and inspected Westfield Shed which of course is vacant. After very careful consideration, however, the head of the firm has told Mr. Wilkinson " with regret," that they are not in a position to expand in Barnoldswick.

Letter to WorkPeople

The information to operatives at Birley's was given in the following letter, signed by Mrs. Blanche A. Brooks, of Thornton-in-Craven, who is chairman of the directors: "Dear friends,- Owing to the very adverse trade conditions and circumstances, absolutely beyond our control, Miss. Birley and I are compelled to close the mill."

"During our father's lifetime, and until his death in 1944, a happy relationship has always existed between all departments of the firm. Many of you have been with us all your working life since leaving school, so it is doubly painful for me to have to give you the grave news that A.J. Birley Ltd. will close down on May 1. I sincerely hope all soon find other suitable employment."

"May I take this opportunity of thanking you all for your loyal support in the past."

This announcement brings to an end a long and industrious family association dating back well over three hundred years. It was an ancestor of Mrs. Brooks' who made the sailcloth for the ships in which Sir Francis Drake sailed against the Spanish Armada.

It was in 1892 that the late Mr. Birley first began his business connections with Earby. At the age of 16, on the death of his father, he had to take on the family concern, at that time operating at Lodge Mill, Burnley, in the spinning section. Mr. Birley's great grandfather built that mill, and with it 60 houses and a shop to serve them, one of the earliest examples of what is now done on trading estates.

Business Prospered

Production in Earby began at Victoria Mill in the manufacturing side of the industry. So prosperous was the concern that when a new block was built, known as Victoria Shed, Mr. Birley placed 700 looms in it. Later he placed 400 looms in Albion Mill.

In 1906 the Burnley mill was burned down, but Mr. Birley took over the site and built a 1000 loom shed, which he sold shortly after the 1st World War. At one time he had 2,200 looms running in Burnley and Earby.

It was in 1932 that business was concentrated entirely at Albion Shed, and notwithstanding the bad trade between the wars, Mr. Birley's acute business sense enabled him to weather the many industrial storms of those

troubled years. Indeed, his firm was regarded as a stabilising influence on the town in those years. It is particularly ironical that this announcement should come at the present time, when Earby Urban District is preparing celebrations for its jubilee. Mr. Birley was the first chairman of the Urban Council in 1909, and had much to do with Earby's establishment as an Urban authority. Prior to his lengthy and valuable service for Earby council, the late Mr. Birley had been chairman of the Thornton Parish Council for a number of years. He was a Justice of the Peace for many years, and in this direction he was succeeded later by his daughter, Miss Birley, who also lives in Thornton-in-Craven.

Town's Benefactors

Earby has had no more generous benefactors than the Birley family. A permanent memorial will remain to them for all time in form of the Birley Playing Fields, given to the district by Mr. Birley in 1938, the year in which he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding. He also gave a piece of land which now forms part of the Skipton Road recreation ground, and had much to do with augmenting the fund which provided the first motor ambulance for the town. No doubt Mr. Birley's interest went back to the days when, as a talented footballer, he played centre half for Burnley F.C., and nothing gave him greater pleasure than to reminisce of great games against the Preston North End side, known as "The Invincibles."

Mrs. Brooks told a Craven Herald and Pioneer reporter on Monday that there was absolutely no plans for the future of the building.

This new development will further aggravate the unemployment situation which has already caused so much concern in West Craven. It is the first really hard blow to be struck at Earby, where only one or two comparatively small firms have closed, and most of the operatives have been absorbed elsewhere. It will also mean that a second mill will, temporarily at least, stand idle.

Barnoldswick Mill

Hopes that the other, Westfield, Barnoldswick, might become occupied fairly quickly were dashed this week in an announcement made by Mr. Wilkinson. At the same time, there are encouraging features in that case. Announcing that Burco Dean would not be coming to Barnoldswick, Mr. Wilkinson said, "It is naturally a great disappointment. Had they decided to come, it would have been a completely new industry for the area and would have employed a considerable number of people. But while we are disappointed, it must not be interpreted as despair.

"Indeed, the fact that we were successful in interesting this firm in our district has given us new encouragement, and our efforts will now be redoubled. I heard of the decision regarding the Earby firm of A.J. Birley Ltd., with profound regret. It is a sad blow to Earby, but the people of the district as a whole can rest assured that all possible is being, and will be done, to try and alleviate the position."

Burco Dean is not the firm dealt with in an exclusive Craven Herald and Pioneer announcement two weeks ago, that a firm had written to Mr. Wilkinson asking for details concerning sites and other services available in West Craven. Negotiations there are still proceeding, though very slowly, and are still at a preliminary stage. Further, it is understood that at least two other firms are making enquiries in to the industrial possibilities of West Craven, while the clerk this week wrote to yet another individual interested in branching out in a new line of business, following information given to him by a Craven Herald and Pioneer reporter.

Crow Nest Firm

Friday, too saw the final act in the death of another well known old established West Craven firm, A. and G. Carr Ltd., Crow Nest Shed, Barnoldswick. Like the Earby firm, they have been experiencing considerable difficulty in recent months, and the labour force had dwindled to no more than a handful. It was the fire at Crow Nest, however which spelled "closure" for that firm; immediately prior to that there had been some signs of an improvement in fortunes.

Again, like the Earby firm, A. and G. Carr was founded by an experienced man who took a keen interest in public life, the late Mr. Anthony Carr. The final "weaving out" had been foreshadowed for some time, and rumours of impending closure have been rife on frequent occasions.

Impressed but ...

In a letter to Mr. Wilkinson informing him of the decision of Burco Dean not to develop in Barnoldswick, the head of the firm stated, "we were very impressed indeed with the willingness of the town officials, as represented by yourself, to assist us to get established."

Mr. Wilkinson told our reporter that representatives of the firm who visited Barnoldswick had been impressed by the factory, but the adaptations that would have been necessary to make it suitable for their type of production were mainly responsible for their ultimate decision. It was not the original purchase price.

- Craven Herald and Pioneer Thursday 26th March 1959 (p11)

EARBY LONG AGO

End of Bracewell Regime

Newcomers to Earby Textile Trade

The termination of the Bracewell regime had the immediate effect of bringing cheap land into the market, and opening the way for enterprising villagers.

One of the first to take advantage of the altered conditions was Mr. William Gill, who had taken up residence at "The Grove." Mr. Gill, who was a joiner and builder of first class reputation, had come to Earby about ten years earlier, and his first workshop was in an old house at the bottom of Riley Street, opposite the Wesleyan Day Schools. When the Mechanics Institute, in the old Baptist Chapel, ceased to function, Mr. Gill took over the premises, and had a shop at the end of the block in Red Lion Street for the display of furniture. Early in 1885, Mr. Gill bought a plot of land in Ireland Meadow, where he proceeded to erect a substantial weaving shed of 600 looms, with a two-storey warehouse, which was named Grove Shed.

The first tenants were Messrs. James Clegg and Hy. Parkinson, and they commenced with about 300 looms. The partners in the concern came from the Nelson district, and had previously been connected with the cotton industry. The firm introduced higher grades of cloth than had been previously woven in the district, and the coming of the firm into the village was a great boon to the weavers.

The other part of Grove Shed was taken over by a new firm the three partners being Messrs. James S. Watson, Chas. W. Bailey. and William N. Berry, and the firm were manufacturers of high class coloured goods. Mr. Watson had been weaving manager at Sough Bridge Mill, and Mr. Berry had been associated with the designing department at Dotcliffe Mill, Kelbrook.

About ten years later , important developments took place, when Messrs. Bailey Watson and Berry removed to a new shed, Spring Mill, which had been erected in Stoneybank Lane by Mr. John Bailey. This shed was also enlarged to hold 600 looms, with provision for further extension.

Partnership Dissolved

In 1903, a dissolution of partnership took place, and Mr. Watson went to the Albion Shed and started the firm of James Watson and Sons. The Spring Mill was divided into two sections, Mr. Berry using one part for the manufacture of coloured goods, the firm being styled W.N. Berry and Sons. Mr. C.W. Bailey, with the association of Mr. Charles Watson and Mr. W.E. Gaunt, established a firm called C.W. Bailey Ltd., and they specialised in high-class sateen goods. About five years ago, the Berry firm removed their looms to a new shed in Foulridge, which is now under the control of Mr. Irving Berry, the surviving son of Mr. W.N. Berry.

Reverting to the Grove Shed, after the removal of one firm to Spring Mill, Messrs. Clegg and Parkinson went to Nelson. Another new firm was founded by Mr. Robert Nutter, which took over all the loom space in Grove Shed. With him were associated his brothers-in-law, Messrs. Bracewell and William Hartley, but in 1908 they went to Brook Shed and took space for 408 looms. Mr. Bracewell Hartley married the eldest daughter of Mr. Gill, and took up residence at the "Grove." Mr. Nutter also included in the business his son Eli, and his son-in-law, Mr. Fred Shuttleworth, and Mr. Harold G. Wilkinson. Mr. Eli Nutter entered into partnership with another brother-in-law, Mr. James Turner, and they had 260 looms at the Albion Shed and 280 at Sough Bridge Mill. This was later absorbed in R. Nutter and Co.

Grove Shed was extended twice- first by Mr. John Delaney, who succeeded Mr. Gill in the ownership of the mill premises, and about fifteen years ago by Messrs. R. Nutter and Co. Ltd., who attained the proprietorship of the whole plant. Mr. H.G. Wilkinson was the salesman and manager during the principal part of the firms history.

After being stopped for two years, the grove shed was purchased last year Messrs. Nutter Bros., of Barnoldswick, and is now fully engaged.

A New Company

When the fortunes of the village were at their lowest ebb, in 1889 (the Grove Shed being the only place of employment running) successful efforts were made to start a new shed company. Mr. John Bailey and members of his family took a leading part in this enterprise, and when a public meeting was held in the Victoria Institute to solicit and organise public support, Mr. Thomas Bailey was elected to the chair, and his son, C.W. Bailey, was appointed secretary, pro.tem. Within a few weeks time, encouraging support was forthcoming, and the contracts were placed for the erection of a shed in a field belonging to Mr. John Bailey, on the opposite side of the road to Victoria Mills, but over the Seal Bridge, at the entrance to the village from the Skipton and Colne highway. The shed was completed and ready for occupation the following year, and the directors arranged with Messrs. Henry Bracewell and Son, of Airebank Mills, Gargrave, to be the first tenants. This firm also re-started Bracewell's original "Old Shed," and removed their looms from Rawtenstall for the furnishing of the new Albion Shed. They were now providing full employment for 1300 looms.

Mr. Henry Bracewell was assisted by his nephew, Mr. Walter Hopwood Bracewell, and son of Mr. C. Bracewell, and his grandson, Mr. H.K. Bracewell, who was the son of Mr. Arthur Bracewell, Knowles House, Gargrave. The firm brought their weaving shed manager, Mr. Thos. Driver, from Rawtenstall, and he was succeeded by Mr. James Hartley, both of whom were very highly respected.

This firm ceased operations in 1903, and another serious stoppage ensued, which lasted for several months. During the following year there was a welcome improvement in the cotton trade, and the Albion Shed was restarted under new conditions, the loom space being allocated to three firms- Messrs A.J. Birley Ltd., 396 looms; and Messrs. J.S. Watson and Sons, 396 looms; and Messrs. Nutter and Turner, 264 looms.

The Earby Shed Co. embarked upon another successful enterprise in 1907, when a new shed was erected off the New Road, on land belonging to the Green End estate. The shed was built to accommodate 1,632 looms, the tenants being as follows: Messrs. T.H. Hartley and sons Ltd., Messrs. B. and W. Hartley Ltd., New Road Manufacturing Co. Ltd., with 408 looms each; Mr. Joseph Foulds, 204 looms, and Oaks Manufacturing Co. Ltd., 204 looms. The directors of the Shed Co. at the opening of the Brook Shed were Messrs. W.N. Berry (chairman), C.W. Bailey (secretary), W. Wilkinson, George Proctor, James Lindley, E. Ormerod and James Brown. Mr. Brown had been chairman of the company for nearly 20 years, and to him was given the honour of starting the engine.

Boon to Shareholders

This shed has had a very prosperous career, and has been a great boon to the shareholders and the people who have been provided with employment there. The present tenants are Messrs. B. and W. Hartley Ltd., Messrs J.S. Watson and Sons, Beckside Manufacturing Co. Ltd., (Watson and Co., Nelson), Oaks Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (Messrs. Normanton's, Nelson). Mr. Edmund Greenwood was originally the principal partner in the Oaks Manufacturing Co., and he was later associated with the Seal Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Victoria Mill. For several years he was also a yarn agent, and later a cloth agent in Manchester.

The Sough Bridge Mill, between Earby and Kelbrook, is considered to be within the Earby area. This shed was taken over from the Bracewells by Messrs. Nathan Smallpage and Sons of Burnley. They were a firm of the highest standing in the trade, and were pioneers in the coloured section of the industry. Mr. Smallpage was a brother of Mr. Samuel Smallpage, who had married Miss Bracewell, of Green End.

Mr. Nathan Smallpage's sons, Nathan, James and Richard, had the management of the business at Sough and Dotcliffe, and are well remembered by many who were employed by them 40 years ago. Mr. Richard Smallpage married Miss Clara Barritt, of White House, Earby, the youngest daughter of Mr. Christopher Barritt, and sister of Mrs. A.J. Birley. The Smallpage family retired from the manufacturing side of the business many years ago, but the cloth business at Manchester is still carried on under the old name.

A new room and power company was formed to take over the Sough Bridge Mill, and the name adopted was the "Kelbrook Bridge Mill Co. Ltd." The style of business carried on by the Smallpage firm was continued by a new

manufacturing company, and the principal partners were Messrs J. Longworth, J.S. Pickles, Jos. Roberts, and James Smith, who had been in employment of the old firm. Mr. Pickles is the only one now living, and children of the former partners are now assisting in the present conduct of the business. The name of the firm is Kelbrook Bridge Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

The Sough Bridge shed was extended 30 years ago by the new buildings company, and the enlarged section is now in the occupation of Messrs. R. Nutter and Co.(Kelbrook) Ltd. with Mr. H.G. Wilkinson as managing director.

Dotcliffe Mill, at Kelbrook, was originally a small mill for spinning and weaving run by a water wheel, and there is still a large dam above the mill premises. After being taken over by the Smallpage firm, a new weaving shed was built, and provision made for dyeing the yarn for coloured goods. Mr. J.J. Duckworth, of Nelson, became the owner of the mill 20 years ago, and he enlarged the shed to hold over 500 looms. Mr. Duckworth introduced the manufacture of high-class goods, and the business became very prosperous.

A few years ago, Mr. Duckworth 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 is the managing director of the present firm, but Mr. Duckworth is still associated with the business. Mr. Duckworth resides at Elslack Hall, in the centre of the village, and Mr. Proctor has also taken up residence in Elslack.

- Craven Herald and Pioneer

EARBY THROUGH 60 YEARS

A PEEP INSIDE GREEN END COTTAGES

Family's Settlement on Opening of Victoria Mill

*"I remember, I remember,
The house where I was born,
The little window where the sun,
Came peeping in at morn.*

The cottage was one of ten, and the fourth from the top. They were in line with the master's house, from which they were separated by the terminus of the carriage drive, which was half a mile long from the main road, leading to the railway station, and to Colne and Skipton.

The village green must have been of considerable dimensions before the Enclosure Acts came into operation, and in addition to being flanked by cottages, there were accommodated within its purview the village bakehouse (usually called the "Bakus"), the blacksmith's shop, the tithe barn, and the village inn (the "White Lion.") The Green End cottages were favoured with a most pleasing aspect, the farm meadows being in front, and the "Banks" pastures in the background, surmounted by Bleara Moor, with Pinhaw Pike on the left and Kelbrook Moor on the right.

Originally the cottages were "one up and one down," but a partition in the living room provided a convenient kitchen, and the bedroom was also equally divided in the same manner. The rent of the cottage was 2/- weekly, with 1d extra for water. In my early days the cottages were modernised by the provision of beautiful doors and large window panes, and they have been more recently provided with up-to-date conveniences at the rear. They have always been regarded as attractive dwelling houses, and none of them has been known to remain empty when there has been a change in the tenancy.

Our cottage was well furnished for its size and in addition to the usual wood chairs, we had a square snap table with mahogany stand; a mahogany chest of drawers with a bookcase on top; a good kitchen dresser with a ledge for ornaments (which included a pair of "lustre vases"; a long table under the window; and the bedrooms were appropriately furnished. The house window sill always contained a few flowering plants, including a rose tree, a lily, geraniums and musk. There was a small strip of garden at the front of the house, and the pavement was of small cobble stones.

Family Privations

My parents were neither of them natives of Earby , but their families had come to reside in the village after the erection of Victoria Mill , where they were all eventually employed , either in the spinning or weaving section.

My father , George Presland Hartley was born at Thornton-in Craven , and his mother, Margaret Presland , was a native of Chester. There was a numerous family , and they suffered much keen privation when the children were of tender years. Their food consisted mainly of " porridge and stop, " with a " sad cake " for tea on Sundays. The only outing my father had as a lad was a visit to Skipton show , walking both ways , a sixpence in his pocket with which to go onto the show field , and a sad cake for his dinner. When he got work as a doffer at the mill he was like many more lads , rather of a rough disposition , and kept a few pigeons.

An amazing revival at the Methodist Chapel , which affected the whole village , occurred during the Cotton Famine caused by the American Civil War , and my father , then 13 years of age , was "brought in." If ever a lad was transformed by conversion it was he , and no church was ever served with more enthusiastic devotion than he unstintingly gave to the local chapel and school and the connexional cause.

The testing time of his conversions came , because the problem he was confronted with was what to do about his pigeons. However , he definitely made up his mind , and packing his pigeons in his baskets , he walked with them down the road towards Skipton until he came to the bridge over the River Aire. There he "despatched" them , never to return , and their dead bodies floated down the river to the sea ; but he never seemed able to cross over that bridge without a little pang of regret as he thought of his beloved pigeons!

A Leading Wesleyan

At the new Wesleyan Chapel and school he became a leading figure , though he was always content to be " either a hewer of wood or a drawer of water." He served the Sunday School as teacher , treasurer and superintendent ; he became manager of the Day School and its correspondent. He occupied in due course the office of poor steward , society steward , chapel steward and circuit steward , and he was the first elected representative of the Barnoldswick circuit to the District Synod.

He was returned as one of the first members of the School Board , and until his death he was a member of the local Education Sub-Committee. In this sphere he co-operated with the Rector of Thornton (Rev. L.B.Morris) , who never could address him except as "George". They were " boys together " in the same village , and social distinctions made no difference to them.

In the spinning mill he became a mule spinner , and one of the best. He was well liked by his co-workers , and well respected by his employers. There were occasions when he was chosen to lead the deputation which waited upon the employers in their private office when difficulties arose about working conditions. When things were very bad in the early "Eighties" he went with a deputation to Burnley to confer with the Spinners' Union. The meeting was held in the "Spinners' Arms," and "pints round" was the rule in that fraternity , and in consequence negotiations did not proceed any further , most of the Earby spinners teetotallers and " chapel goers." He was fortunate enough to leave the mill before the long stoppage ensued in 1889 , and for six years he was manager of the Co-operative Society. During that period a vast improvement was effected in the condition of the Society , which was contributed to by the increase of the population.

In 1895 he assisted in the formation of the Earby Manufacturing Co. Ltd., and was one of the first directors , and also the chairman for several years. During part of that time he worked as a tape sizer.

Cricket Memories

From a youth he was keenly interested in cricket , and while he only appeared occasionally with the first eleven , he often officiated as an umpire. On one occasion at Colne , he was mobbed off the field because he had given their "pro" (Dick Boys) "run out." In 1874 , at Earby Feast , Arthur Bracewell took the Earby cricketers to Bolton Abbey by waggonette. They all jumped the Strid except my father , because he had promised my mother he would not attempt it. The explanation is that I was born a fortnight later.

My father's younger brother , Jack , was an enthusiastic cricketer , and captain for some years , and two of his sons have earned renown on the cricket field. His elder brother , Jim , was the manager of Bracewell's weaving sheds at Victoria Mill and Albion Shed for above 20 years.

My mothers family came from Gargrave to Earby , and they prized their association with that beautiful Craven village from which they migrated , and where they had numerous relations. My grandfather was John Green , and Ann Burrows was the maiden name of my grandmother. In earlier years the Green family lived at Giggleswick , and my grandfather was a chorister in the parish church. After his marriage at Gargrave he was employed as warper in the cotton mill on the High Green, and was working there when the riots against steam driven machinery took place.

On Sundays he was engaged in his favourite role of chorister in the choir at Gargrave Church , and usually attended the old Methodist Chapel afternoon and evening , where he was the "tune starter." At one time he was similarly engaged at Broughton Church , and when he came to Earby he rendered service likewise at the Methodist Chapel. After working as a warper at the Victoria Mill and "putting other men" into that branch of the industry , he was placed in charge of the warehouse at the Old Shed , where he remained until his retirement in 1885. He was a well read man , and closely followed the events of the times in the "Manchester Examiner and Times."

Service at Lothersdale

My mother , Elizabeth Green , was the eldest of six children , and from her earliest days she displayed unusual aptitude for literary pursuits. Before she left Gargrave she was presented with a Prayer Book and New Testament , bound in leather , by Miss. Curren , of Eshton Hall. Her education at Earby was continued at the Old Grammar School , and she became a very close friend of Mr. Bentley , the schoolmaster , and his family. Mr. Bentley pleaded with her father to allow her to become a teacher , but home circumstances prevented such a course. She , along with her sister (Mary Jane , afterwards Mrs. Edmund Lund) became a beamer at the mill and continued in her occupation until her marriage.

During the stoppage caused by the cotton famine she went into service with the Spencer family at Raygill , Lothersdale. At the public entertainments of that period , especially " Penny Readings ," she often appeared as a reader. She was endowed with a clear , sweet voice , and her intelligent rendering of interesting "readings" was a sheer delight , and a welcome variety from extracts from the "Clock Almanac" by "Old Dode" (Mr. Joseph Wilkinson). She was a vocalist , too , of considerable merit , and frequently took the solo part in the anthems at anniversary services. She enjoyed immensely taking part in the rendering of "Messiah" and other oratorios.

She was a very devoted teacher in the Sunday School , and took a keen interest in all the activities of the chapel and school. Elderly people have told me how their parents used to " hold her up" to them as a worthy example of young womanhood. She had a gracious disposition , and I can never remember hearing her say , or repeat , an unkind word of anyone. Her neighbours and friends esteemed her very highly , and it was very impressive to listen to the respectful manner in which they addressed her and spoke her name.

The mistress at Green End House used to drop on occasionally for a short chat , and when the last baby was born she was very pleased when the name was Mary Louisa. In the last few years of her life she suffered from physical weakness , and during one winter I was kept from school on Mondays and Fridays to help with the washing and the cleaning. That little ministry served to bring me into closer and more sympathetic association with my mother , and the fragrance of her memory has never lost its charm , though fifty years have passed since those days.

A Boyish Prank

Our family circle included two brothers and two sisters (Charlie and Johnnie , and Maggie and Pollie). My brother was named after the most popular Wesleyan minister in the country at that time (Rev. Charles Garrett), but "Garrett" was the name his mates gave him and that name became one of the best known in Earby. As a lad he was noted for mischief ,as , for instance , when he treated his schoolmates with "sticks of spanish" from the school pence with which he had been entrusted. He never took the school pence to school again.

He went into the mill as a reacher-in , and then became a weaver ; later he was a loomer and twister , and after a brief spell with Briggs Brothers , printers , as their Earby representative , he entered the printing profession , and established quite a successful business at the "Caxton Works," Skipton Road. He had a special aptitude for secretarial work, and for long periods he was secretary of the cricket club, the Wesleyan Sunday School and the Wesleyan Chapel Trustees, and at the close of his career he was co-secretary of the Skipton Division Liberal Association. He also occupied the of society steward and circuit steward of the Wesleyan Church, and he was a great lover of the cause. For over forty years he was in the choir, and as a singer he was particularly successful in amateur operatic circles. He was ever ready to give assistance to any deserving cause, and served the public interest to the full extent of his capacity. He followed his father on the local Education Sub-Committee, and for six years represented the Barnoldswick Division on the West Riding County Council. His public services were

recognised by his being appointed a Justice of the Peace. Our Christmas festival was observed as was customary in cottage homes. Of course, we put our stockings up on the mantel-piece, and they were filled with apples and oranges, sweets and nuts by a black-bearded "Santa Clause," and we received picture books such as "Early Days," "The Prize" and "The Family Friend" (the latter being a gift from Green End House). We decorated the pictures and ornaments with sprigs of holly, and nailed appropriate mottoes on the walls.

Grand Old Tunes

Christmas morning was spent quietly, except for a rousing salutation from the village brass band. Music in various forms of expression has always afforded me keen delight, but I have known no pleasure of that kind which surpassed the playing by our band of "Hail Smiling Morn" and "While Shepherds" to the grand old Yorkshire "Shepherds" tune, more than fifty years ago.

- *Craven Herald and Pioneer*

Recollections of Earby

60 YEARS AGO

Born at Hilltop in 1848, in time we came into the village to live, and time passed 'till at the age of two, I was sent to school (Mr. Bentley's) and sat round the stove in the babies' class, which I remember well. I can see through my mind's eye the large picture card of the Children of Israel passing through the Red Sea, and Miss Ann Bentley coming to teach us. There were Wm. Dodgson, Thomas Lee, Alfred Varley, John Bradley from Thornton, Jim Smith, Jim Bailey, Jim Watson, and a number of others I have forgotten, who grew up together as best we could, having no night school to go to, to keep us out of mischief, and so we crowded together in a corner by James Brown's house, with Tommy o' Betts telling tales of what he had heard and seen, and what a treat it was to go to Colne and Skipton to look at the shops and stalls in the streets.

I remember father taking me to Skipton to see the decorations at the time of the Crimean War, walking both ways. The first black puddings I ever saw were at Colne Fair ; four of us walked there and back with twopence each in our pockets. Once the soldiers came and camped at Old Anthony's (Gate House) and that was a treat and when it was fine and dark we used to get Joe o' Tibbies to tell us all about plug drawing - all this when I was about seven.

SECTION MISSING

much she came out and followed us and caught the last one and gave him a good "clout over the ear hole" and knocked his neck out, and if it had not been for Tom Pickles (clogger), who pulled it in again, he would have died, which nearly sent Jane Wad off her head.

Then there came the first policeman and ordered us lads about our business and tried to keep us in order. About this time people were having a lot of trouble with the doffers, who made mischief at every end and side. A lad named "Feedum" led them into all sorts of mischief - a terror to the neighbourhood. By the way, I am glad to say the Baptist people got hold of him and he is now a respectable member of society. Time has altered things since Tom Shuttleworth was the Constable for the district, and Jim Berry, the tailor, used to parade the village, and Old Judy blowing his trumpet and crying "Toffee for rags and bones."

"Well, there were a few good men and women at that time. John Pickles, my granddad, James Brown, Thomas Turner, James Dodgson, John Taylor, John Wilkinson (Kalick), Mr. Sephton, John Green, Thomas Lee, Mr. Wilson (who came from Thornton to the Wesleyan Chapel), Tommy Smith, and Thomas at Vargis, John Bailey (Stoney Bank), Rbt. Parker, Tom o'Dicks, Joe o'Dicks, Tom -o'-Bill -o'-Wills- o'-Joe -o'-Dick's, William Crowther, Bill Edmondson, Old Mary Edmondson, and my father and mother, Mary Whiteoak, Old Tom Waddington, the village doctor, Ellen Dodgson, Martha Pickles, Jack Pickles, Mary Pickles, Wm. Pickles, (Schoolmaster), Uncle Henry Pickles, famous violinist and a number of others, I still remember, but whose names I have forgotten. Sam o'Nanny's and his wife, who used to come "muck spreading," - marvellous how they lived! I am living in one of the most beautiful towns in England, and enjoy the sea air and nice flat streets and beautiful shops, but still I have had time to think where I sprung from.

- *J. Sanderson (Southport) Ref. Pioneer 28th December 1923*

Old Earby Families - The Varley's

Distinguished Public Service at Home and Abroad

About eighty years ago William Varley, a young engineer, of Colne, was appointed the "engine driver" at the large, newly erected Victoria Mill. The family came to reside in one of the cottages at "the bottom of Earby," opposite the end of the mill, in a block of houses built by Nathan Watson and Thomas Wilkinson (Thomas o' Quart John's), and the father of Mr. Elihu Wilkinson, who is so well known in the district.

All the houses in the village at that time were of the cottage type, except a farmhouse here and there, and the "Master's" house at Green End; but the house in which the Varley family resided had one distinguishing feature for we have it on the undoubted authority of Mr. Elihu Wilkinson, it was the only cottage house in Earby which had "curtains" to adorn the windows. If, as is often the case, you can discern the character of the occupants of a house by its curtains, then the curtains of the Varley habitation were a sign that they belonged to the aristocracy of the village community.

In this particular instance the family life of the Varleys was proof of their natural and acquired superiority, for there was no family held in higher regard.

Mr. Varley was of a quiet retiring disposition, and was very diligent in attending to his duties. The entrance to the engine room was up the main steps on the second floor, and very fortunate did any doffer count himself who was allowed by Mr. Varley to look at the great double-beam engine when in motion. There were two sons and one daughter in the family, the eldest of whom attained to a position of distinction in the neighbouring market town of Colne.

Alfred Varley was born in 1860 and received his education at the local Grammar School, which was in fact, an elementary school under the management of the Rector of Thornton. The Varley family was also associated with the Methodist Society, and attended the old chapel in Stoneybank Road.

A Distinguished Career

Alfred was a Sunday school teacher, and in the evenings he was associated with his friend, Edmund Lund, junior, in teaching the "three R's," He also became a local preacher, and his name was on the Colne Circuit plan for about fifty years. As a youth he became articled to Messrs, Hartley & Carr, a firm of solicitors in Colne of very high reputation, and in 1881 he was appointed clerk to the Colne and Marsden Local Board.

As Colne progressed as a local authority, Mr. Varley successively held the post of clerk to the Colne Local Board, the Colne Urban District Council, and Town Clerk from the incorporation of the borough in 1895 until his retirement in 1923.

When Mr. Varley became associated with the local government of Colne, the population was only 9,000 and there were very few public officials, which entailed much responsibility upon the Chief clerk. For 25 years Mr. Varley acted as borough treasurer, and submitted the accounts to the Local Government Board for audit. In 1904 he became a fully qualified solicitor, and also qualified as a barrister, so that he could represent the Town Council in the highest Law Courts in the country.

He rendered very eminent voluntary service to the old Cottage Hospital as secretary, and was responsible for the organisation of the endowment fund. When the Hartley Hospital was opened he became honorary secretary, and was one of the governors of the Hartley Cottage Homes.

He combined in a very marked, degree both industry and tact, and while he was of a retiring disposition he was very kindly disposed, and always approachable by any who sought this counsel and advice. Courtesy was the distinguishing feature of his nature, and his fidelity as a public servant was eloquent testimony to his high sense of duty.

During the whole period of his residence in Colne, Mr. Alfred Varley was prominently connected with Albert Road Wesleyan Chapel, and he was the oldest trustee at the time of his death, which occurred in January of this year, at the advanced age of 82 years, after a very brief illness. Thus so recently came to a close the faithful service of one of Earby's most illustrious sons;

Mr. William Varley, the second son, entered into the engineering business at Keighley, and after a successful career retired to Morecambe.

Elizabeth Varley

Belonging to the Varley family there is another member who is entitled to honourable mention-Elizabeth Varley, the daughter, who became the wife of the late Mr. Henry Brown, engineer, likewise a most worthy son of Earby. "Who can find a virtuous woman?" saith the wise man in the Holy Book, "for her price is far above rubies"; and it is no exaggeration to apply to Elizabeth Varley. The further testimony of the sacred writer: "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all." It would be difficult to find anywhere a character where natural beauty and perfection of disposition were so harmoniously blended.

Their home, as I remember it nearly fifty years ago, with four children, was the finest example of a cottage home I have ever seen.

Frederick Edmund Brown, the second son of Henry Brown, and grandson of William Varley, has also brought distinction to the family name and to his native heath. Receiving his elementary education at the Earby Grammar School, and for a few years at George Street School, Colne.

Fred Brown, as he is familiarly known, spent a few years as a pupil teacher, and in office work at the Victoria Mill, and then offered his services to the China Inland Mission. Owing to the Boxer Rebellion in China, this project was frustrated, and after two years at a Glasgow College he was accepted for the Wesleyan Ministry. His first appointment was as an Army chaplain at Secunderabad, India, and a five years' term of service at Gibraltar followed. He was subsequently stationed at Portland, Dorset, and immediately on the outbreak of the Great War he was sent to France. During the whole war period he stuck to his post in France, and attained the rank of Major, his services being recognised by the bestowal of the D.S.O.

After his return from France, he entered the home ministry, being stationed at West Hartlepool, but as another vacancy arose at Gibraltar he returned to his old post, and the work among the boys of H.M. Forces, which he has always loved. He has now been at Gibraltar for more than ten years, making fifteen years service all told on "The Rock," a record which is probably unique amongst Army Chaplains.

A few extracts from his letters to the writer of these notes will be of particular interest to all who know Mr. Brown:-

Oct., 1927 - Gib. has almost become home to me now, and I rarely think of any change. I have the superintendence of everything connected with the work. I have no officials, although I have helpers, and I have to shoulder the burden of everything that comes along. With few exceptions, I preach three times a week to practically the same people. I often wonder at their patience. I have only been away from Gib. for two Sundays during the past three years. Still, I have no desire for a change. Every place has its advantages and disadvantages, and one has to work away and make the best of things. I am preaching to-morrow on the U.S.S. "Detriot," which has put in at Gibraltar.

Aug., 1928 - We are suffering from a very much depleted garrison. Still we carry on, and although we are in the hottest season of the year our weeknight meetings continue as well as our Sunday services. I have just come down from my house on the summit of the "Rock," where I have spent a glorious night sleeping on the flat roof. It seemed a pity to sleep at all and miss the marvellous moon and starlight. My house at the top of the Rock is 1,400 feet above sea level.

March, 1931- We are enjoying glorious days and nights. Since this year came in we have only had two wet days. We really need rain badly. The "Rock" has been all white with narcissi, and in my garden I have oranges, arum lilies, geraniums, etc., and in the aviary canaries are singing all day long. The Atlantic Fleet is here, and we have the Church, crowded with sailors on Sunday mornings. They are busy days. Yesterday, I preached at the 9-30 service, and again at the 10-30 service. I attended the monthly children's service at 2-30, preached again at 6-30, held Holy Communion at 7-30, and ended the day with the "sing-song" at the "Welcome," getting home about 11 p.m. I have now spent nearly fourteen years here. I hardly ever contemplate a change, but the time must come when I shall have to relinquish the work, but in many ways I shall be sorry when it does come."

May this fine example of unselfish service be an incentive to all Earby boys.

J.H.

Transcribed from the Craven Herald 24th June 1932 written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

In the Days of Long Ago

An Informative Earby Lecture

Landmarks

An informative address, on "Landmarks in the History of an Ancient Parish," was given by Mr. A.H. Clegg, headmaster of the New Road School, at the weekly meeting of the Earby Wesley Guild on Tuesday evening. Mr J. Hartley presided, and the lecturer dealt specifically with the Thornton Parish.

Four Townships

The old parish of Thornton-in-Craven consisted of four townships, said Mr.Clegg. They were Thornton, Earby, Kelbrook & Harden. The manor of Thornton-in-Craven is mentioned in the Domesday Book compiled by William the Conqueror, about the year 1086 A.D., and the entries relate to the lands of William de Perci and Roger the Poictevin. Craven is described as Crave, Thornton as Torentun, Earby as Eurebi, and Kelbrook as Chelbroc. In 1101, Roger de Poictevin joined in a rebellion and forfeited all his estates. He was banished from England, and Robert de Rumeli and Alan de Perci shared the lands, which he had held in Craven.

The Thornton manor, continued the speaker, had always consisted of three manors, but from the earliest times they had never been separated. The families who had held the manor included the following: The Percy family, who occupied it for two centuries: the Kyme family who did not hold it for long, and who sold it in 1300 to Walter de Muncey for £600. Muncey then held it for 16 years and then the manor passed to the Earls of Roos. They were in possession from 1316 to 1556, a period of 240 years. In 1556 one of the Roos family alienated the manor to William Lister, and the family of the latter held it for over a century. When Anne Lister married Sir John Kaye in 1700, the manor passed to the Kaye family, and so recent as 1871, Sir John Pepys Lister-Kaye of Denby Grange, was Lord of the Manor.

Place Names

The place-names connected with the manor make an interesting study, said Mr Clegg. The old forms of Earby as given in the Domesday Book are: Euribi, Everby, and Eureby. The origin is Scandanavian and the meaning is "the upper village."

Torentun and Thorntun were the old forms of Thornton, and the meaning is given as "the enclosure by the thorn tree." The early variations of Kelbrook were Chelbroc, Kelebroc, and Kelbroc, and the apparent meaning of the name is "the brook which flows from a spring or boggy place."

Harden, said the speaker, might be old English, meaning "in the grey valley"; or "the place on the slope."

Hague or Haigh means "an enclosure," but it may also mean an "enclosed hunting ground."

Dealing with the geographical conditions, Mr. Clegg said the manor was more wooded in early times than to-day. Possibly, he suggested, a large portion of the low-lying parts was waste, owing to the swamping conditions. The drainage of Kelbrook Bottoms under the low-lying parts, was not carried out until 1826.

The number of houses would be very small in those far off days compared with the present day, and the population even as late as 1743, was not more than 750. In olden days the main road from Colne to Skipton was probably over Thornton Moor, dropping down into Skipton via Carleton. The present main road from Colne to Skipton has probably existed from time immemorial, as it is shown as a road on Jeffery's map of Yorkshire produced in 1771. This, he added, was the first reliable map of the country.

The Stocks

Speaking of the old forms of punishment, the lecturer said that the stocks and the whipping post were two common instruments for the punishment of minor offenses. The remains of the old stocks can still be seen at Thornton, and they were used down to 1831. Extracts from the Churchwardens' Account dated 1814-1848 show that payments were made to Thomas Hartley "for attending to two persons in the stocks." Mention is also made in the same record of a payment of 14s. "for seven summonses for Sabbath breakers."

Giving items of interest from old documents, the speaker observed that apparently the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, held lands in the parish at one time. Their revenue account for the year 1542 shows the following: "Irbye (Earby) 11d. from Lord Roos; 4d. from Robert Blakeley." In a list of Roman Catholics compiled in York in the year 1604, two persons from Thornton parish were included. One was Everid, wife of Lawrence Lister, and the other was Richard Bawden, a schoolmaster, who was probably at the old Windle Grammer School [Earby].

Local Government

Old forms of local government were an interesting feature. All through the Middle Ages, and until the nineteenth century, the Parish Meeting or Vestry played a very important part in the life of the parish. The business of the Vestry was not confined to matters affecting the Church. In those days, the distinction between things secular and things ecclesiastical did not exist. The Vestry dealt with poor relief, roads, rates, etc. It carried out the work in the parish which is now carried out by the Board of Guardians, Urban District Council, and County Council. Probably its most important function was the dispensation of poor relief. During the first quarter of the nineteenth century, there was a great deal of poverty and distress in the parish. The average amount disbursed in poor relief from 1816 to 1837 was £1.093 per year, although the population at that time was only 1,200. In 1826, the worst year of the distressed period, 400 persons in the parish were relieved to the extent of £2,830. These were staggering figures, commented Mr. Clegg. In that year, the widespread poverty drove the people to despair, and they became reckless. They joined along with other reckless persons from neighbouring parishes and organised a riot. The rioters proceeded to Gargrave, where they destroyed the looms in the mill belonging to a Mr. Mason. As a result of this the Overseers of the parish had to pay £9 14s. 9d. as "a proportionate share for the power looms damaged."

Church Terriers

Included in the old registers, proceeded Mr. Clegg, were many Church Terriers, which were documents drawn up by the Churchwardens specifying everything belonging to the Church. This brought one to two interesting points: Tithes, and the tithe barn. There was a tithe barn in the parish until about 100 years ago. It was mentioned in several of the Terriers and was situated in the Earby Township. The exact location, which he (the speaker) could not discover for some time, is described in a Terrier dated 1786, as follows: "A little Croft on the back side of the tithe barn in Earby, abutting on John Bagshaw, Esq., on the north and east, on the green to the south and on George Smith's Croft to the west." Hence it seemed as if the tithe barn was on the edge of the village green, which was not far from the hall in which he was now speaking. The "White Lion" was also near the green. The Manor Corn Mill was, in all probability, near the waterfall.

Trades

Some interesting information had been gathered in the old parish registers, regarding the trades and occupations of the people in the parish two centuries ago. These the speaker dealt with in detail.

Concluding, he referred to the Windle Grammar School, reference to which, he said, could not be omitted. It must have played an important part in the history of the parish. The Church Terrier of 1743 gives the date of the founding of the School as 1594. Until 1840 it was the only seminary in the district. The second school was probably the old Church School built in 1840.

- Transcribed from a Local Newspaper, February 1930, written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

Methodism in Barnoldswick

Jubilee memories of People, Places and Events

This weekend at Barnoldswick special services will be held to commemorate the jubilee of the Barnoldswick Wesleyan Methodist Circuit. The following article, dealing with the chief figures in the circuit's history is from the informative pen of Mr.J.Hartley, of Earby, The new Methodist Circuit, following Methodist Union, comes into being to-morrow (Saturday)

On September 1st, 1884, Barnoldswick became the head of a newly formed circuit in the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion. The circuit contained three chapels, Barnoldswick, Earby and Mount Pleasant, and was known as a single station, in charge of one minister, who was the superintendent. Previously, the area comprised in the new circuit had formed part of the Historic Colne Circuit, which was formed in the earliest days of Methodism.

The introduction of Methodism into the neighbouring West Yorkshire villages was probably due to the fact that Colne was the market town of that district, and visitors to Colne could not fail to be interested in the visits of the early Methodist preachers, including John Wesley himself.

To Mount Pleasant belongs the honour, so far as it can be traced, of direct association with the Methodist Society at Colne. In the year 1772 a farmer's wife named Mary Barritt, who with her husband, John Barritt, lived at Hey Fold, about a mile from Foulridge, joined the Methodist Society at Colne, and their son John was converted and joined the Society soon after his mother. The husband, who was a staunch and bigoted Churchman, did not approve of members of his family attaching themselves to the Methodists, and he caused them much suffering by his persistent persecution. He did not relent in his opposition until his last illness, "when he was brought to the knowledge of God, and died in the faith of the gospel,"

John Barritt, when quite a young man, was called into the Methodist ministry by John Wesley, and about the year 1786 he was stationed in the Otley Circuit. He was sent next to the Isle of Man, and then to Whitehaven, when he retired after a very strenuous term of service in the itinerant ministry. Dr. Bunting paid a generous tribute to him as a man who was never satisfied unless he was saving souls.

Carrying the Fiery Cross

Mary Barritt, his sister, became famous throughout the bounds of Methodism as a woman evangelist. She was born at Hey Fold, in 1772, and before she was 20 years of age she was frequently engaged in visiting love-feasts and exhorting in prayer meetings.

In her diary she records that having been asked to conduct a meeting at Rimington the preacher appointed for Gisburn sent in a protest to the superintendent minister at Colne, as he had been left without congregation, except some old women and children, all having gone after the lass; "and if you don't stop her I shall give up my plan." The minister said he would stop her, but when he saw how many sinners were being brought to God he declared it an honour to sit behind her in the pulpit and snuff the candles for her.

About this time she joined her brother and his wife in the Isle of Man, and stayed with them for a year. When she returned home she commenced a wider Ministry, visiting Todmorden, Heptonstall and Accrington. At the latter place she, with Ann Cutler, who accompanied her and took part in the services, had a day never to be forgotten. "The people assembled at one o'clock, and we continued until five; we began again at seven o'clock and continued till midnight; the glory of God was in the midst.

About Christmas, 1793, she joined her brother in the Hexham Circuit, conducting services as she journeyed through North Yorkshire, and for several years she continued with work of that nature, and an account of a notable revival at Pateley Bridge was published in the Methodist Magazine of 1795, of which she was the principal agent.

There was great demand for the services of Mary Barritt from Northumberland down to Oxford, and in town circuits as well as in the country she was very effective in promoting the revival of religion and securing conversions.

After a fortnight at Leeds she passed on to Bradford, where she was invited by the vicar (the Rev. Mr. Cross) to breakfast, who rejoiced in the good work which was done, and, at his urgent request, she frequently visited him during her stay in the town and district.

Threatened by Rioters

The retired minister and his wife settled at Hullet Hall, a substantial farmstead a short distance away from Hey Fold, near the canal. During the "Plug Drawing Riots," when Mrs. Barritt was living there alone, after her husband's death, the house was visited by a gang of rioters, who broke into the house and demanded her money, which she had deposited beneath the ashes in front of the fire. They threatened her life, but her only reply was "Sudden death, sudden glory." Foiled in their attempts to get money they helped themselves freely in the larder. They got drunk with elderberry wine, and so were easily caught a few hours later. All the members of the gang were transported for their offence.

The cause at Mount Pleasant has been well sustained by several worthy families, including some who removed to Chorley many years ago, the Sellers and Colberts. Other names which, have been associated with the chapel include the Crabtrees, Yates, Cutlers, Rushworths, Horsfalls, Sutcliffes, Edmondsons, Bracewells, and Capsticks.

A grandson of the Rev. John Barritt was the Rev. Robert Newton Barritt, a very able and popular Wesleyan minister, who died about twenty years ago. The Rev. W. Brockbank, now of Ilkley, has preached the sermons in the open-air, under the trees of Hey Fold for more than 25 years, and the event is a red-letter day for White Moor Side.

In a list of the societies in the Colne Circuit in 1805, compiled by the Rev. Z. Taft, with the members' names, Earby, Barnoldswick and Salterforth appear with 20, 29 and 9 members respectively. There were two classes at Barnoldswick and the leaders were John Thewson and John Carr. The meetings of the members were in cottage houses, and the first public place of worship was the chapel on Jepp Hill, which for many years has been the offices of the Urban District Council.

The new chapel in Rainhall Road was built in 1877 by Mr. William Bracewell, and is undoubtedly the most imposing and beautiful place of worship in the town. The Rainhall Road Day and Sunday Schools were erected a few years before the Chapel. Mr. Bracewell, who was the principal employer in the town, having built the Butts and Wellhouse mills, was keenly interested in the Wesleyan cause, and was the first circuit steward of the Barnoldswick Circuit.

Boy Preacher Becomes Archbishop

Prominent among the leaders of the church in the earlier years was Mr. James Nuttall, who had a small mill at Coates, and who had a protracted lawsuit with Mr. Bracewell, owing to the supply of water being cut off from his mill. Mr. Nuttall was a local preacher and class leader, and two of his sons attained the highest rank in the religious world. The eldest son, Enos, who was a popular boy preacher, was sent out to the West Indies as a Wesleyan missionary. He soon afterwards joined the Anglican communion, and in course of time became Bishop of Jamaica and Archbishop of the West Indies. The next son, Ezra, went out to South Africa as a Wesleyan minister, and became the president of the South African Conference.

Among those who rendered loyal service to the cause may be mentioned Richard Kendall, who followed Mr. Bracewell as circuit steward. He was organist and choirmaster for several years, and a devoted class leader and teacher. His son, the Rev. Ezra Kendall, has had a distinguished career in the Methodist ministry. Other leaders, local preachers and Sunday School workers include William Baldwin, John W. Thornber, Enoch Starkey, F. Eastwood, Isaac Barritt, Levi Watkinson, Ezra Watkinson, G. Lemon, W. J. J. Mac-donald, A. Worsley, A. Horsfield, Jonathan Fort, Jas Moorhouse, A. Burniston, J. W. Robinson, H. Edmondson, H. J. Waller, S. Manock, J. Ashton, and Edna Windle.

The Calf Hall Road Church was started as a mission at Town Head, in the old Independent Methodist Chapel, about 35 years ago. The man to whom the mission owed its existence, and who laboured unceasingly for its welfare, was Richard Brennand, who was previously connected with the Rainhall Road Church. Other stalwart workers have been John Brennand, Edgar Whitehead, T. Riley, A. Kay, W. Tomlinson, R. Bush, J. Crowther and J. Sandham.

Salterforth and Earby

The Salterforth Society had a chequered career, and no chapel connected with the denomination was built. Nearly forty years ago the cause was revived, and the services have been held in the Friends' Meeting House, which was restored by the new tenants. The building has recently been further renovated and a new roof put on.

The cause has been kept going mainly through outside help, and only afternoon services are now held. Among those who have rendered valuable assistance may be mentioned Mr. Fred Maude, now of Bradley, and Mr. James Haworth, who has removed to Southport. The small church owes much to its present stewards, Walter Bradford and Walter Hartley, and the Carradice family.

The Church at Earby was well established in the early part of the last century, and a chapel was built in 1821 in Stoneybank Road. This was enlarged 20 years later, and in 1861 the handsome Gothic chapel was erected on the site of the old village green. This was enlarged in 1902, when two transepts were made, with an organ and choir chamber, and new vestries. A new Day and Sunday School was opened in 1872. The Bracewell family at Green End, and Mr. Henry Bracewell, at Thornton, gave much financial help to the cause.

Mr. John Wilson, of Thornton, was in the earlier years the most prominent member of the Earby Society, and he was the circuit steward of the Colne Circuit.

Earby's Ten

The cause at Earby has always been famed for its local preachers, and at one period there were ten names on the Colne Circuit plan-Edmund Lund, Thomas Smith, James Brown, John Taylor, Benjamin Parker, John Duxbury, E. Lund, junr., A. Varley, William Moorhouse and James Moorhouse. Other names associated with the work at old and new chapels include Robert Greenwood, P. Greenwood, James Dodgson, John Pickles, H. C. Smith, G. P. Hartley, W. Pawson, Henry Brown (whose son, the Rev. F. E. Brown is a Methodist chaplain at Gibraltar), W. Brown T. Brown; S. Leach, James Lindley., schoolmasters ; John Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson ; and among present leaders- J. W. Knight, H. Lumb, J. H. Willcock. J. E. Palmer, A. J. Carter, J. A. Brown, J. Hartley, and Rennie Pawson, choirmaster and organist. A list of the pastors is appended,

1884 Vetrario Tyas.
1886 John Nelson.
1887 Edward Crump.
1890 William Barber.
1891 William Millican.
1894 William Barnes.
1896 Thomas P. Spencer.
1899 James Hind.
1901 James H. Wilkinson.
1903 W. Galloway Mitchell (supply).
1903 John Toft.
1906 Samuel J. Johnson.
1907 Arthur Shipham.
1910 Michael Westcombe.
1913 Matthew Hall.
1916 Arthur Bradfield. M.A., B.D.
1919 R. Stafford Breal.
1923 S. Leonard Evans.
1925 T. Nevison Phillipson.
1929 B. J. Anglin Johnson.
1932-4 William Jones, M. Sc. (present minister).

The new circuit will be under the pastoral care of the Rev. William Jones and the Rev. Benjamin Oliver, the former Primitive Methodist minister.

The Circuit stewards during the half century were as follows: William Bracewell, James Brown, Richard Kendall, William Baldwin, G. Presland Hartley, James Lindley, James Moorhouse, Tom Brown, Alfred Horsfield, John Hartley, James W. Robinson, Henry J. Waller, Chas. Garrett Hartley. The present circuit stewards are Alfred Horsfield and John Hartley, both serving a second term of office.

In addition to those named, the Rev. Harry Pawson passed from the Barnoldswick Circuit into the Methodist Church of Canada, and the Rev. Daniel Penman has just received his first appointment to Uxbridge.

The new circuit, which comes into being on September 1st. also includes the former Primitive Methodist Chapel at Station Road, Barnoldswick, and the two former United Methodist chapels at Kelbrook and George Street, Earby.

Transcribed from the Craven Herald 31/8/1934 written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

Earby III

Our Village Blacksmiths

With reference to Mr. Dodgson's family, his son Henry, who was for a long time associated with the father in the Earby business, is entitled to special honour as he was the pioneer in this district as a cyclist. He made in his own shop a machine of the very best type, and he was known to all the "wheelers" in the West Riding and East Lancashire. He was a well-known competitor in the sports fields of forty to fifty years ago, before the advent of the " safety " machine. Later he established a successful business at Colne, where he now resides.

Mr. Dodgson had also two daughters, Ellen, who married the well-known and highly respected dentist, John Hodgson, and Susannah, who became the wife of the late Mr. Mason Moorhouse, also of a highly respected family.

John Taylor

Another character, most worthy of honoured remembrance, is the blacksmith of the old Victoria Mill, John Taylor, who also came from Marton, and was a nephew of Thomas Dodgson. He and four other children were left orphans at an early age, the father, William Taylor, a shoemaker, dying when John was six years old, the mother three years earlier. Kind friends took the children under their care, and John lived as a boy with his uncle, Henry Robinson, farmer, of Harrop. When he was eleven years of age he came back to Marton and was apprenticed to his blacksmith uncle. He never went to a day school, but attended a night school at Marton. He had, however, remarkable natural abilities, and he not only became a first-class workman, but a self-educated man of eminent usefulness. As a boy and a youth he was a chorister . at Marton Church, and on Sunday evenings he and other boys had to go to Gledstone Hall to "say their catechism" to Miss Roun-dell. Thomas Varley, the late estate agent, was one of the number.

It may be stated that a great uncle of John Taylor's, William Tayler, was a schoolmaster for forty years, and was the clerk at Marton Church. He was sworn in at York, and he continued to serve in that capacity from 1763 to 1793, when he died. The family have in their possession the book of Common Prayer which Wm. Tayler used at the Church services; also a copy-book containing samples of writing almost like copper plate.

At one time there was a flax mill near the Cross Keys Inn, which belonged to the Taylor family, and Thomas Varley's mother worked there as a girl.

There was a pew in Marton Church which was assigned to "William Tayler and his seed for ever."

As a youth John Taylor began to attend the Wesleyan Chapel at Barnoldswick, and became a teacher in the Sunday School. Some of the servants at Gledstone Hall also accompanied him occasionally to Barnoldswick, with the almost inevitable result that one of them, Sarah Weatherall, became his wife. They were both held in high esteem at "The Hall" and Mr. Taylor was allowed to visit the hall to pay his attentions to his sweetheart. Miss Weatherall was the housemaid, and her services were especially prized because she was such an excellent seamstress. The happy pair were united in holy wedlock at Skipton Parish Church on February 18th. 1849, the officiating clergyman being the Rev, P. C. Kidd. They were both 21 years of age. After his marriage the young blacksmith removed to Barnoldswick, and he was the first blacksmith at Butts Mill. The Roundells however, liked his shoeing of the horses so much that they arranged with Mr. William Bracewell for the Gled-stone farm horses to be brought to Butts Mill to be shod. The old blacksmith said "he could not have shod horses like John Taylor if they gave him all the world. The Wesleyans at Barnoldswick were not slow to recognise his character and talents and yielding to persuasion he became a local preacher, his first service being at Foulridge. He quickly gained acceptance, and was in much demand in the Colne Skipton and Crosshill Circuits. At a Colne Quarterly Meeting which he attended he took part in a discussion in support of a proposal made by the late William Tunstall, of Brierfield Mills He impressed Mr. Tunstall very much although he was unknown to him, and immediately after the meeting he asked where the young man came from and was told : "It is the young blacksmith from Barnoldswick." He went and made the young man's acquaintance and admitted to him : "You just said what I wanted to say, but I could not have done it." The result was a lifelong friendship which was much prized. After eight years he went to Trawden to start business on his own account but the venture was not successful, many of the people were more ready to have work done for them than to pay for it.

In December, 1856, he came to Earby to be the blacksmith at the Victoria Mill for Mr. Christopher Bracewell, which position he retained to the end of his life. For more than a quarter of a century he was an outstanding figure in our village life, known to and respected by all. He was a veritable tower of strength to the Wesleyan cause, as local preacher class leader, society steward and Sunday School superintendent.

Of James Dodgson it could be said:

"He goes on Sunday to the Church And sits among his boys."

But of John Taylor it required to be

"He goes on Sunday to the Church And sits among his girls."

He had a large family, all daughters with the exception of his son William, who will be remembered as a day school teacher, musician and cricketer. He passed away in the full tide of his powers, and was outlived by his widow by about thirty years, and their last resting place is in the lovely quietness of Marton Church burial ground.

Hartley Wilkinson

who was an apprentice of James Dodgson's, and who for nearly fifty years had a blacksmith's shop in the older part of the village, is also deserving of special reference. He was a typical old Earby resident-shrewd, practical, humorous, and untiringly industrious. He was very popular with lads, and children coming home from school. "Looked in at the open door: They loved to see the flaming forge And hear the bellows roar.

"Hartley Smithy," as his place was usually called, was a veritable camp for the "Keb Brig" and "Top o' town" lads. They used to go to get their clog irons put on; and nothing suited them better than to blow the bellows and watch them being made. Happy indeed was the lad who was permitted to do a bit of striking. . . , He had two hobbies, one was poultry rearing and the other was music. . He was a frequent exhibitor at poultry shows, and a notable prize-winner. From being a youth he was a member of the Baptist choir, and one of the leading spirits in the: old Earby Glee Party. He was a light tenor, and he simply revelled in musical performances.

A Blacksmith Story

One of the stories which occasionally Hartley liked to tell related to the farmers who came down to Earby from the Lothersdale side to have their horses shod. Two of them arrived one morning and they were joined by a third. The last comer looked very downcast, and on inquiry they ascertained that the man's wife had passed away the day before, and he was left with a family of children. "A'll tell thi what a'll do," said one of his farmer friends, "a'll swop thi wi' a wick un, and gi' thine a good burying "Hartley Wilkinson passed away on January 2nd, 1903, having lived three years over the allotted span.

J. H.

Transcribed from the Craven Herald November 12th 1926

Earby II

Our Village Blacksmith

Of all the human occupations with an historic association there is none that surpasses the worker in iron. There is an old couplet, which runs as follows:

"When Adam delved and Eve span,
Who was then the gentleman?"

The two existing schools, the Wesleyan and the Old Grammar School, were quite inadequate to accommodate the children of school age, and they were so overcrowded that due attention could not be given to the lessons by the children. The Wesleyan School was recognised for 198, but there were 285 on the books in 1893, and the Grammar School accommodation was recognised at 81, and this school was overcrowded. A report on the Wesleyan received after the spring examinations in 1893 brought matters to a head, and H.M. Inspector expressed the view "that if the managers of the Wesleyan School do not care to enlarge the premises I think a School Board should be formed to cope with the growing requirements of the place."

Accordingly a meeting was promptly arranged between the managers of the two schools, and a deputation from the Baptist Church, which was held in the Wesleyan School, under the presidency of the Rev. L. B. Morris, the rector of the parish. After a prolonged discussion, it was agreed to summon a ratepayers' meeting at an early date.

The meeting was accordingly held, and under the circumstances it was realised that a School Board was inevitable. The election of the School Board to serve the area of the extensive parish and township of Thornton-in-Craven was held early in 1804, and, as it has previously been noted, the successful candidates were the Rev. L. B. Morris, M.A., J.P., Mr. John Hartley (Kelbrook), Mr. George P. Hartley, the Rev. Walter Wynn and Dr. Hunter. No time was lost by the new authority in getting to work, and Mr. W. N. Berry was appointed clerk, a position which he filled with distinction. Mr. James Bailey was later appointed as school attendance officer.

But before Adam could delve he must have had some suitable implements, and we must assume that Adam was a "Jack of all trades." The ancient chronicler has placed on record that in the earliest stages of social development Tubal Cain was the forerunner of all who worked in iron.

One remembers a poem that was taught us at school:

"Old Tubal Cain was a man of might
In the days when the earth was young:
By the fierce red light of his furnace bright,
The strokes of his hammer rung."

The fire has glowed and the musical notes of the anvil have rung out through all the succeeding ages and in all parts of the habitable globe. There is no other craft which has had more distinctive association with English village life than the blacksmith, but it has been left to an American poet-but one who was thoroughly embed with English tastes and traditions-to immortalise that noble character. So Longfellow sings:

"Under a spreading chestnut tree
The village smithy stands,
The Smith, a mighty man is he
With large and sinewy hands."

That lovely picture, in all its stages, has had its counterpart in our village life.

A Traditional Hero

In the absence of historical documents it is difficult to deal with events beyond the memory of living people, but there is one personage who, although unknown by name, has survived in the fireside stories of the remote past. On the unimpeachable authority of the late James Wilson Green, the Earby blacksmith of a century and a-half ago was a man whose exploits were known all over the North and West of England. His fame was not so much due to his excellence as a craftsman as to his skill was and prowess as a wrestler. During the eighteenth century wrestling was the most entertaining and popular sport of the countryside, and large companies used to assemble to watch the physical tournaments arranged on behalf of the protagonists.

Our Earby champion won the reputation of being able to beat all comers, and to test his claim visits were paid to Earby by the champion wrestlers of Westmoreland and Cumberland, counties which are still noted for this kind of sport. When the visitors arrived and made their challenge the blacksmith left his smithy on the edge of the Green and "took his man on."

"The muscles of his brawny arm
Were strong as iron bands,"

And the sturdy man proved to be invincible. He might have said, in the words of Miss Mitford's village champion: "We do not challenge any parish but if we be challenged, we are ready."

Marton to Earby

It is not making too great a claim to state that in the sphere of the black smith there is no name in the surrounding district, which stands out, with so much prominence as DODGSON. More than a century ago the adjoining village of Marton, three miles distant from Earby, was quite a populous village. The blacksmith for the village and the Gledstone estate was Thomas Dodgson. His father had also served the community in the same manner, and the family was held in very high esteem. The Wesleyan Methodists from the Skipton Circuit conducted services at Marton, which were held in Thomas Dodgson's house, and continued as long as he lived.

After attaining his majority James Dodgson went in search of "fresh fields and pastures new," and started in business as a blacksmith on his own account at Kelbrook. There he found his devoted wife Mary Wilkinson, who was a servant at Kelbrook Vicarage. When he was 24 years of age the aspiring blacksmith removed to Earby, and built a new shop on the New Road, near to Lane Ends, where he established a good business, which was the nursery for a family of blacksmiths who settled in the neighbouring towns and villages.

The eldest son, Jonathan, migrated to Gargrave, where he built up a fine business, which is now managed by his son. Thomas settled at Whitefield, Nelson, and one of his sons has a blacksmith's shop in Burnley Lane, with grandsons learning the trade. Another son, John, entered into business as a joiner and cabinet-maker, and his son has established the Boundary Joinery Works, Colne.

The fourth son, William, had a fine scholastic career, and won a science scholarship for £330, which was open to all England, and by which he entered Owen's College, the forerunner of Manchester University.

The youngest son, Alfred, remained with his father, and with the advent of the motor industry this branch has been wonderfully developed by Alfred's son, James.

Mr. Dodgson was of a retiring disposition, and his leisure time was spent at home and in the service of the Wesleyan community at Earby, as society steward and Sunday School teacher and treasurer. In quiet conversation he used to relate stories of his boyhood and young manhood. He had a keen recollection of the Colne Riots on the introduction of power looms the "plug drawing" disturbances and the cotton famine. He lived under six sovereigns- George III. George IV. William IV. Queen Victoria, Edward VII. and the present King.

He and his wife were privileged to celebrate their golden wedding, and the old gentleman, who had never had a real illness in his life, continued the even tenour of his pilgrimage until he arrived on the verge of his 94th year. Their mortal remains were laid to rest in the quiet churchyard at West Marton.

J. Hartley

Transcribed from the Craven Herald 21 June 1935 written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

EARBY LONG AGO

Paths and Thoroughfares

When the Bracewells Lived at Green End House

In commencing this new series of articles for the "Craven Herald" it will be advisable to review the conditions prevailing in our village 60 years ago. At that time Earby was a fair-sized industrial village, with a population of about 1,500. There were few houses in what now constitutes the West Ward, only a farmhouse at Lane Ends, with a few cottages adjoining. The village proper stood back a few hundred yards from the Colne to Skipton turnpike road, and the railway station was fully half-a-mile distant from the nearest houses. The road into the village branched off the main road at Lane Ends, passed over Seal Bridge and alongside the entrance to the Victoria Mills. Between Lane Ends and the station a private carriage-drive branched off the highway, which led up to Green End House. There was a semi-circular ornamental entrance with iron gates, the road was fenced with iron railings, and trees were planted on each side which were each protected with a wooden fence. This carriage-drive was called the "New Road," a name it still retains, though it is now a paved street. The outlet of the road was into Green End Road, but there was also an ornamental gateway on the right-hand side leading into the grounds of Green End House, which was the residence of the village "Master," Mr. Christopher Bracewell.

Green End House had been considerably enlarged, and was the most imposing residence in the district. A bridle path branched off the road opposite the station, and this is now known as Rostletop Road. The road entered into Langroyd Road, which was a narrow lane, and a continuation of Green End Road. At the lower end of the village there was another entrance from the main road, through School Lane, which was then very narrow.

From School Lane there was an entrance to "The Grove," where Dr. Theakstone resided, and which is now occupied by Mr. Bracewell Hartley. Where the Conservative Club now stands, and the "Fair Ground" adjoining, there was a field known as "The Doffers Croft." This field was immediately opposite the entrance to the Victoria Mills, which explains its designation. Leading from the village to the railway station there was a footpath, a short distance from Seal Bridge, which went through the Cricket Field, cutting off about one quarter of the field. It was a broad path made of ashes, and much used. It entered the main road, near Dodgson's Smithy.

There were no side paths on the road to the station, but a covered stream, and a ditch on one side part of the way. The roads were roughly made, and when stones were put on to repair the roads it was left to the carts to crush them, and there were frequently deep ruts in the roads. In wet weather the roads were often very dirty, and pools of water lodged in the ruts. There were no street lamps to guide the wayfarer as he trudged along, and very few signposts.

A Different Railway Station

Many of the streets were unnamed, or were given bye-names, such as Backside, Cat-Gate, Muck Street, and a colony of houses over the stream at the bottom of Earby was called "Ireland." The railway station gave added importance to our village, and this was increased when it became a junction station for Barnoldswick. The station was very different in appearance in the early days of the railway. The platform for the Colne and Barnoldswick trains was a long, low, narrow structure, and the wooden building which served as an office, waiting room and booking hall was on the Skipton side. The signal-box was a small cabin near the booking hall and close by the gates, and the levers were outside the cabin, the signalman having to attend to the messages inside and then come out to signal the trains. The stationmaster's house was near the site of the present signal-box, but it was occupied by Mrs. Andrews, the mother of the stationmaster, Mr. George Andrews, who lived at a house near by called "Crow Beckle." Mrs. Andrews was the proprietor of a coal business at Earby and Colne, and also provided carriages and wagonettes for public hire.

The industrial life of the community centred round the Victoria Mill, and the Old Shed, both of which were owned and run by the Bracewell family. The Old Shed was a long narrow building, with windows at the sides, holding about 260 looms. When it was erected the loom space was for 100, and it was enlarged 20 years later. What was called the "New Shed" adjoined the Victoria Mill and had room for 600 looms. Altogether the firm provided employment for about 250 workpeople, when fully engaged, and they had a reputation of being good employers. In the heyday of cotton trade prosperity following the termination of the American Civil War, the two branches of the Bracewell family associated with Earby made an imposing display.

An Esteemed Family

After a term of residence at Southport, Mr. Christopher Bracewell returned to Green End, and in 1874 his eldest son attained his majority. There were four sons, and loyal villagers respectfully referred to them as Mr. Robert, Mr. Willie, Mr. Walter and Mr. Edgar. There were three daughters, who were known as Miss Lizzie, Miss Edith and Miss Carrie. Mrs. Bracewell and the children were highly esteemed. There were carriage horses and hunters at the Green End stables, and a coachman and footman in attendance.

Mr. Henry Bracewell, brother of Mr. Christopher, for a time resided at Thornton House, and then resided at the beautiful and imposing Manor House at Thornton. Mr. Henry Bracewell had one son, Arthur, who was very well liked by the Earby people.

When Sunday came round the two families used to go "in state" to the Wesleyan Chapel at Earby, and they were substantial supporters of the cause. In addition to frequent ministerial pulpit supplies, students from Didsbury and Headingley Colleges were secured, and some who became the foremost preachers in the denomination were popular visitors. Some of the most eminent ministers in Methodism visited Earby at that period, including Dr. W. Burt Pope, of Didsbury College, Dr. Ebenezer Jenkins, Missionary Secretary, Dr. David J. Waller, Education Secretary, and the Rev. Peter Mackenzie.

Mr. Henry Bracewell and his family left Thornton for Gargrave, and carried on the business at Airebank Mills. In 1885 the Bracewell regime in Earby came to an end, and Mr. Christopher, with his wife and two sons, Willie and Edgar, went to America, and settled down to farming at Denver, Colorado.

Half a century ago there was a flourishing industry at Booth Bridge, where the brothers, Henry and Vandeleur Wilkinson had a Bobbin Mill. The firm were also noted makers of barrows and agricultural implements. The motive power was provided by a water wheel, and the "Caul," where the water was stored, was an unfailing attraction to young men who were fond of bathing in the summertime.

A Handsome Avenue

Since the removal of the business to Heysham the buildings have fallen into decay, and present a rather desolate appearance. Another feature of note belonging to the period under review was the different aspect of the village by reason of the glorious trees, which were to be seen on every hand. In the Cricket Field, near the Main Road, in Applegarth, Selcroft, School Lane, Stoneybank Lane, in front of Green End Cottages, down Langroyd Lane, and up by the Moor Hall, there was a fine display of some of the most handsome trees to be found in the neighbourhood. The lane from Earby to Salterforth was a beautiful avenue in the summertime. Some of the "cloughs" on the hillside have been shorn of their beauty in recent years. Time has brought many changes, but some of them cause a pang of regret to old lovers of Earby.

- Transcribed from the Craven Herald 5th April 1935 written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

Earby Long Ago

Leaders of Village Education

The Old Grammar School and its Headmasters

In the front rank of those influences which have tended towards the well being and development of our village community must be placed our educational institutions.

It is impossible adequately to trace the origin of educational processes, but these seem to have had their rise in the parental instinct to train the young in self-preservation, and from this primitive instinct man's experience and powers have been transmitted and developed through succeeding generations.

In the first stages of the history of Mankind manners and customs were acquired by imitation, and with the gradual development of intelligence and ordered speech parents would endeavour to explain the reason and purport to their actions.

With the accumulation of knowledge and the invention of letters special training was required for the mastery of the symbols, and thus schools as institutions of learning came into existence.

The educational system in our own country is the result of growth and adaptation, and not the outcome of a complete and well-conceived system.

It is not generally recognised how well provided with educational institutions our country was two hundred years ago, considering the size of the population, which was principally contained in the agricultural districts. The Grammar Schools erected during the reign of Edward VI and in the Elizabethan period, with the parochial schools, which followed, made a fairly effective provision for those who were able to take advantage of it. The rise of industrialism, with the enormous increase of population, made these schools hopelessly inadequate, especially in the more populous districts.

Earby was fortunate in the possession of a Grammar School, which was provided by a local resident named Robert Windle, about 1594. In the parish records it is expressly stated that the school was founded for the teaching of Latin, and for the instruction of the youth within the parish of Thornton. Provision was made by the original benefactor for the maintenance of the master, and an endowment of £20 per annum was secured for rent charges on land at Harewood, near Leeds, on Lord Harewood's estate.

The reason why the teaching of Latin was definitely provided for was because that language was accepted at that time as the principal medium of learning, and it was in harmony with the culture of the day.

Two Storeyed Building

The Earby Grammar School was a substantial stone building of two stories, with a master's house adjoining, and forming part of the structure. It was situated on a plot of rising ground on the outskirts of the village in the direction of Thornton, and overlooking the waters of the Eure, the stream from which the village derives its name. There was a large garden in front of the school, sloping down to the boundary wall, and a convenient playground adjacent to it. The main entrance to the school and the house was from a central porch, and there was an additional entrance to the school at the western end. The front of the building had a southern aspect, and the view of the village and the countryside from the school was a very pleasing one.

How long the school was carried on according to the design of its founder it is impossible to state, as no records appear to have been kept after its inauguration, but it seems to have suffered the fate of many similar institutions owing to the lack of educational organisation in the country, and fallen into disuse. The earlier decades of the nineteenth century were attended by acute and distressing poverty in the parish, but with the introduction of power loom weaving in 1840 an era of prosperity dawned.

The newly appointed rector of Thornton, Rev. L.S. Morris, M.A., was instrumental in securing the renovation and re-opening of the Grammar School. The upper room was dispensed with, and the large room was provided with modern school furniture and accessories. Mr. John Bentley was appointed as schoolmaster, and in the course of time he was assisted by his son, John Thomas, and his daughter, Ann. Mr. Bentley's wife was named Ann, and there were other two daughters in the family, Margaret and Mary, the full name of the latter being Mary Martha Clara Matilda. Mr. Bentley was a thorough, very conscientious type of a school dominie, and he impressed his habits of mind and conduct upon the young people committed to his charge.

The school was conducted purely as an elementary school, but the fundamental subjects were very carefully taught, and the moral influence of the school was very noticeable upon those who were brought within its pale.

Bank Actuary

Mr. Bentley was a devoted churchman, and he and his family were regular worshippers at the Thornton Parish Church.

He was one of the first actuaries appointed by the Yorkshire Penny Bank, and he served the bank with conspicuous fidelity, not only in the Earby area, but as far afield as Slaidburn-in-Bowland. For his monthly journey to the outlying parts of Craven he used to be conveyed in George Andrews' trap, in charge of his coachman, Joe Moore.

There are many former depositors still living who will remember their visits to the old Grammar School to pay their small contributions, and who can forget the sight of Mr. Bentley, his daughter Ann, and William Hartley ("Too-a-tal"), who sat at the receipt of custom, and made the entries in the books? Sitting at a school desk, with a candle for each person, they performed their duties with perfect courtesy and painstaking accuracy.

In Mr. Bentley's early career, before the days of compulsory education, he had an evening school for the benefit of those who had not received any daytime instruction, and he was assisted in this work by Mr. John Singleton, one of the most respected men in the village. Mr. Singleton was very friendly with Mr. Tunnicliffe, who had an educational academy at Hague House, above the old road leading from Kelbrook to Foulridge, and this friendship was a decided advantage to Mr. Singleton. He followed his occupation during the daytime as a warper at Bracewell's Victoria Mill, but his evenings and weekends were entirely devoted to helping others by imparting knowledge he had received.

Mr. Singleton was associated with the Baptist Church, and his son, Rev. Hugh Singleton, has had a distinguished career as a Baptist minister at Accrington, and later at Birmingham, where he is now living in well earned retirement.

Mr. Bentley had a brother named Joseph, who was the schoolmaster at the National School, Kelbrook, at the time he came to reside at Earby.

Mr. Bentley lived to an advanced age, and passed away in his 77th year on May 7th, 1891, and his wife died the following year. They are both interred at Thornton Church.

When Mr. Bentley retired from the post at the Grammar School the new rector, Rev. L. B. Morris, had an extension scheme carried out, the master's house being attached to the school for educational purposes. A good commodious house was built for the master on the eastern side of the school grounds, and the whole premises were modernised as far as possible.

A Gifted Musician

Mr. Joseph B. Hodgkins received the appointment to the school, and with the assistance of his wife and pupil teachers the school entered upon another successful period.

Mr. Hodgkins was an enthusiastic master, and he became very popular with the school children and among the inhabitants generally. He was a gifted musician, and a capable bass soloist, and he used his gifts unstintedly for the welfare of the children. He organised annual school concerts in the Albion Hall, and they always attracted crowded audiences.

In addition to his school duties, Mr. Hodgkins had a number of private pupils, and gave special attention to promising youths. Among these may be mentioned Mr. Percy Ellis, assistant master at the New Road School, and Mr. Demaine Smith, assistant manager of the Morecambe branch of Martin's Bank.

On removing from Earby, Mr. Hodgkins received the appointment as headmaster of the village school at Newchurch-in-Pendle, and after nearly a quarter of a century's service at this school he has recently retired. Mr. and Mrs. Hodgkins have been very happy in their service for the children in this Pendle Forest village, and they now occupy a villa in the neighbourhood where they are so highly esteemed. Retirement does not mean rest for Mr. Hodgkins, as he is the leading public man in the district, being chairman of the Parish Council, a very valuable member of the Burnley Rural District Council, and the representative of the Wheatley Lane district on the Lancashire County Council.

A Private Club

Following the erection of Alder Hill School the Grammar School ceased to be utilised as an educational institution. For a short time the building was used as a private club, but a few years ago; the Earby Urban District Council initiated a scheme by which the premises were made the home of the Council Public Library. This has been a great boon to the community, and there is ample room for storage and other necessary facilities. Since this development was carried out there has been a notable increase in the number of readers, and the library is one of the best village institutions in the West Riding area.

The building has also been made the centre for the Children's Clinic, and is very suitable for the purpose. It is impossible to conceive a more suitable use for the time-honoured building, and it will probably long remain one of our most distinguished landmarks.

The income, which is derived from the endowment, along with the use of the building, is vested in a body of local trustees, of which Mr. Stanley Watson is the secretary. The institution is recognised as a parish charity, and the annual income is utilised for the provision of scholarships, tenable at Skipton Grammar School and Girls' Endowed School, and Colne Grammar School.

An old dame school was conducted by Mrs. Austerberry and her daughter, Nellie, in their cottage in Water Street, before the introduction of compulsory education. There were two cottages in the block, which are now absorbed in a block of lock-up shops, near the East End corner of the Victoria Mill. Mrs. Austerberry's school was mainly used, for young children, who were taught how to read and write before passing on to the Grammar School, and it was regarded as the infant school of the village. Mrs. Austerberry and her daughters were highly esteemed, and regarded as being "gentle folks," and above the average in station.

Mr. William Wilkinson, the first Baptist minister in Earby, and a member of a respected old Earby family, started a school in a garret in his house in Gravel-pit Road, and also held night classes. The entrance to this room in the minister's house was through the gallery of the adjoining chapel. The room was computed to hold fifty persons.

An Effective Influence

Mr. Wilkinson was the pastor of the church from 1819 to 1849, and his salary at the commencement was £10 per annum. In addition to his small school fees, he increased his scanty income by handloom weaving. His influence

over the rough, uncultured youths of that day was very effective. His name is treasured with pride by all the descendants of those whom he served so devotedly.

When the new Baptist Chapel was built the old building was brought into use as a day school between 1861 and 1872. The school was mainly under the control of the master, who "farmed" the school, and in consequence, the career of the school was rather spasmodic. If there was no master there was no school.

One of the masters of that period who is well remembered was Joseph Longworth, who previously had charge of the National School at Salterforth, Some of his old pupils speak of him with appreciation and esteem.

The old Methodist School in Stoneybank Road was used for night classes about 1870, and the teachers were Alfred Varley and Edmund Lund. Mr. Varley was articled to Carrs', of Colne, became a solicitor, then qualified as a barrister. He was Town Clerk of Colne from 1895 to 1928, when he retired. He died in 1932. Mr. Varley was the first correspondent for the committee of the Wesleyan Day School, which was opened in 1872, and he had a lengthy correspondence with the Board of Education relative to a grant for the new school. The Board, however, did not give any financial assistance, and the cost of the school was raised by the denomination, with willing assistance from other sections of the community.

J.H.

Transcribed from the Craven Herald 26 July 1935 written by John Hartley From a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

Earby Long Ago

The Wesleyan Day School (1)

Teachers, Lessons, and Original Games

The foundation stone laying of the new Day and Sunday School took place on Earby Feast Monday, July 10th, 1871. The village was en fete for the occasion, and after the parading through the streets of the Baptist and Wesleyan scholars, an adjournment was made to the site of the new school, which was on a plot of ground behind the beautiful Gothic chapel, with a frontage in Cat (Cattle) Gate, the modern name being Riley Street.

The school, when completed, was a handsome building, in keeping with the adjoining sanctuary, the block including a long section for the older scholars and a shorter section for infants. The master's house was a commodious and beautiful structure adjoining the infant school, and alongside the rear portion of the Chapel yard. There was accommodation in the school for 250 scholars, according to the requirements of that period. In the large classroom at the eastern end of the school there was a gallery, and a similar arrangement existed in the infant room. The front playground afforded ample room for the children, and there was a small playground at the back of the school for girls and infants.

The school was opened during the summer of 1872, but a bazaar was held in the nearly completed building on May 18th to raise funds for the new enterprise. There were nearly 400 visitors on the first day of the bazaar, and the visiting patrons included Canon Morris of Thornton. The cost of the school and the furnishing was £1,990.

The headmaster appointed to the new school was Mr. Samuel Leach, who was a native of Wilsden, near Bradford, and the son of a woollen manufacturer, Mr. Thos. Leach, of Birk's Head Mill. After serving as a pupil teacher at Bingley Wesleyan School, he entered Westminster Wesleyan Training College, where he passed his qualifying examinations with distinction. His first appointment was at Staple Cross Wesleyan School, Sussex, where he remained for eight years, and there he married Miss Anna Boots, the daughter of Mr. Henry Boots, an esteemed resident of Staple Cross.

Upon their arrival in Earby, Mr. and Mrs. Leach had an enthusiastic reception, and the school managers were highly pleased with their success in securing so highly talented a master and mistress. Mr. Leach was a keen devotee of his profession, and his love of neat and correct scholarship amounted to a passion. He was kind and generous in disposition, and took great interest in helping forward promising students. In addition to the compulsory subjects, drawing and singing were introduced, and needlework was under the special tuition of Mrs. Leach. The singing lessons were very popular, and the introduction of the "Tonic Sol-Fa" system of musical culture made the instruction more attractive and valuable. In those days singing was utilised for memorising arithmetical tables, and singing "rounds" were much enjoyed. A memorable feature of the school life at that

period was the reverent and hearty singing of hymns at the opening and closing of the school, and popular national songs and ballads were enthusiastically indulged in.

Playtime was always eagerly anticipated and hilariously enjoyed. Whittier's poetical description of his schooldays is of universal application:

"Tho feet that, creep'g slow to school,
Went storm'g out to play."

"Game of Trust"

The usual children's games naturally found a place, but big Earby lads liked something boisterous, and the game of "Trust" provided the necessary outlet for their physical prowess. The biggest lads picked "sides," about six or eight on a side. The leaders "footed" which side went "down"; then the fun began. Taking their place in the corner of the school yard with bent backs, with one small lad as a "buffer" in the corner, the "down" team were, jumped upon by the other team, one after another, something like "leap frog." If they touched the ground with their feet, or all failed to get on, they had to go down.

Outside the school, and after school hours, the lads of that time were fond of jumping, especially the mill beck and Barnwood beck, and the lads who could jump the most hazardous places were regarded with heroic pride.

And "tell it not in Gath"- there were times in the early months of winter, on moonlight nights, when "soddin" matches took place between the big lads who lived in various districts. . The challenge would be thrown out, and at a given time the lads from "t' top o't town" would make a raid on "t' Green End lot," or vice versa. There was nothing bitter about these encounters, and the fun, if crude, was greatly enjoyed by the combatants.

Sliding, in wintertime, was a delightful pastime in the days when we really had wintry weather. After a few days hard frost, especially if snow had fallen the bigger school lads made a slide in Stoneybank Road which reached from Stoppes Hill to the bottom of Cat Gate. Scores of young people would go up after the school "loosed" and in the evenings, and the enjoyment was thrilling, especially to those who could keep on their feet the full distance of the "slide." In periods of long continued frost the mill beck was frozen over, and sometimes the low-lying land adjacent, and this provided another source of enjoyment after school hours, and during the weekends.

Examinations

Very much importance was attached to the school examinations, which were held annually after the introduction of compulsory education, and the visits of H.M. Inspectors were the "red letter" days of school life. From the school managers' point of view the examinations were of supreme importance, as the school income was dependent upon the grants earned by "passes" in the annual examinations. School children were not usually attired in fine clothing, and for the examination special instructions were given to the children to present themselves in their best clothing, if possible, and for that reason, at any rate, examinations were welcome to the children.

The inspectors were regarded with awe, as if they were altogether superior beings, and they were usually tall and handsome men, and immaculately attired. Usually, the papers set and the questions to be answered were suitable and within the ability of the children to deal with, but on one occasion the pupils in the fifth standard were given a subject to write a short essay upon which baffled almost all the class. The subject was "The Donkey," and all they could write upon the subject amounted to this: "The donkey is a very stupid animal" The imaginative muse failed and the "donkey" refused to move. Very few marks were given for that composition test, and only two "passed."

School Pence

Another feature of that school-day period was the compulsory custom of paying school-pence. This was necessary to supplement the grants received from the Government to enable the school managers to pay the schoolteachers' salaries.

The educational equipment used by the scholars in the school had also to be purchased from the schoolmaster, including reading books, exercise books, slates, pens and pencils. Every scholar carried a school bag to and from school, and this certainly made "going to school" more picturesque.

In cases where there were large families, this provision of school books and the payment of school-pence often proved a serious hardship.

I remember a certain Monday morning when my brother, with some other lads, took their school-pence and that of their brothers and sisters, and spent it on "sticks of Spanish," and then played truant. After that episode, my father always paid the school-pence direct to the master.

Homework was insisted upon in the schooldays under review. So many words to learn "off by heart" so as to be able to spell them correctly; so many sums to do; so much writing, and maps to draw. Woe betide any scholar who had not done their home work. Not long ago a Craven farmer, now retired, said to me, "Didn't I used to thump tha to mak tha do my' hoam-wark."

But for all their drawbacks and disabilities, school life was enjoyable in those days of half a century ago, and the master, mistress, and other teachers were held in very high esteem and are remembered with sincere gratitude by the scholars who came under their influence.

Associated with Mr. and Mrs. Leech were Miss Ann Brunskill (the late Mrs. John Edmondson), the infant mistress; Miss Wright, of Skipton, and Miss Tomlinson, who succeeded in that capacity; Henry Wilkinson, the first pupil teacher, who became a school inspector, who is now enjoying a well earned retirement; Willie Taylor, who later entered into business at Manchester; James Ebenezer and Albert Turner Brown, three sons of the late Mr. James Brown, who all served their apprenticeship with Mr. Leech, the first two becoming schoolmasters. Mr. A.T. Brown later entered the journalistic profession, and had a distinguished career. Mr. Chas. Watson Bailey was also a pupil teacher under Mr. Leech, and passed on to the British School at Skipton, afterwards becoming a cotton manufacturer and a leading public man in the Earby district. At a later period there were Miss Petty, of Skipton; Mr. Wm. Teale, of Skipton; Miss Maggie Greenwood (Mrs. Smith, of Cowling), and Mr. Levi Turner, the last-named having recently retired after long service at the Church School, Barnoldswick.

Retirement of Mr Leech

In 1885, Mr. Leech, with his wife and two daughters, Louisa and Bessie, went to live at Ingleton, where he entered into business as a draper, having a large shop in The Square, now occupied by the Ingleton Co-operative Society. After he retired from business, Mr. Leech lived at Greta Villas, in the same village. He was for many years the Sunday school superintendent and chapel steward for the Wesleyan cause at Ingleton. In the Parish Magazine the Vicar testified to the high regard in which Mr. Leech was held, for he had taken a warm and active interest in the place for many years since he came to reside amongst them. His kindly and cheery presence was missed by all whom had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Mr. Leech passed away in 1910, at the age of 68. His wife and younger daughter predeceased him, but his elder daughter (Mrs. W. Boyd) still resides at Ingleton.

J.H.

Transcribed from the Craven Herald 16 August 1935 written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs. E. Wilkinson.

Earby Long Ago

The Wesleyan Day School (2)

Work and Influence of Mr. James Lindley

After the retirement of Mr. Leech, in 1885, the school entered upon a new era, which proved to be very successful. Out of a list of seventy applicants, the post of headmaster was awarded to Mr. James Lindley, who was a native of Headingley, near Leeds. Before proceeding to Westminster College for his final training, Mr. Lindley had been engaged as a pupil teacher in Huddersfield, and his first appointment after leaving the college was at Aspall, near Wigan.

Mr. Lindley was delighted with the prospect of again residing in a West Riding village, and a few weeks after commencing his scholastic duties he brought a bonny bride, who was the daughter of Mr. Jeremiah Sutherby, saddler, of Huddersfield and they took up their residence at the Schoolhouse.

Undeterred by the depressing condition of the commercial life of the village, which persisted for some years, the new schoolmaster brought to his new charge unbounded enthusiasm, which had marked influence upon the scholars and the staff of the School.

The foundation work of the school received very careful attention, and it was a great boon to Mr. Lindley to come to a school which had been so efficiently conducted previously. It was natural that new methods would be introduced and new features added to the life of the school. Coming straight from a colliery district, Mr. Lindley had brought a fine collection of fossils, which were an object of wonder to the scholars, and helpful in illustrating new lessons in geology.

Elocutionary exercises included a thrilling recital of Macaulay's "Horatius" and a dramatic representation of Shakespeare's "King John," with the parts acted by selected scholars.

The singing lessons were a special feature of the school, and modern part-songs were introduced, which afforded great delight to the scholars. A very popular item was "Echo in the Hollow Glen," and those boys and girls who were chosen to sing the "echo" in an adjoining room regarded it as a special privilege. The lusty singing of Christmas carols was an experience that could never be forgotten by those who were scholars at that time.

For a few years a show of wild flowers was held, but after the novelty had worn off this experiment was discontinued. New games for the girls and infants were introduced by Miss Tomlinson, the infants' mistress, who was possessed of singular personal charm and vitality. Miss Tomlinson was accustomed to attend the village cricket matches, and she could throw a cricket ball as well as any man on the field. She was also a fine soprano vocalist, and she was in frequent demand at concerts and musical services in the district.

"GoodNeet"

Mr. Lindley was keenly desirous of improving the manners and speech of the children outside school hours, and he sternly reproved one of the biggest boys, in the presence of the whole school, for saying "Good neet" to him when he gave the boy an evening greeting in the street. A few days later the offence was repeated, but "not all the king's horses and all the king's men" could have made that lad ("H.P.") do otherwise.

In his earlier career Mr. Lindley had much faith in the virtue of the "cane," as was customary at that time, but in later life it was to him a matter of deep regret that he had been a victim of that method of administering correction, because it was alien to the natural kindly spirit of the man. It is a matter which is often jocularly referred to by "old boys" of the school how many canes they broke, or were put through the ventilation grates in the school floor. There is no doubt that both Mr. Leach and Mr. Lindley found some of the Earby lads "a stubborn lot."

Some of them were witty, too. On one occasion, during a lesson on grammar, Mr. Lindley asked the scholars to name words that were composed of an adjective with the addition of "less," and "Neddy" Greenwood replied, "gawmless!" This reply brought forth a gentle rebuke from the master, who, nevertheless, was always appreciative of these humorous "sidelights."

There is no doubt that the personal influence of Mr. Lindley upon the children was the most powerful factor in their training and development, and it is readily admitted by all who came under his spell. He was always interested in their welfare, equally so after the termination of their school life.

Old Scholars

It is interesting to recall names and careers of some of those scholars who received their educational impulse at this Wesleyan Day School. In addition to those previously referred to who joined the teaching profession may be mentioned the following: Herbert Wilkinson, now residing at Heysham, the best writer in the school and a brilliant violinist; Hartley Watson, artist and photographer, who passed away in the prime of life; his brother, Bailey Watson, a first-class tenor vocalist; Percy Windle, Baptist lay preacher and registrar of the Earby Cemetery; William Crowther, Walter Wilkinson, Edmund Greenwood, W. E. Gaunt, Irving Berry, who have made their mark in the manufacturing world; C. G. Hartley, master printer, J.P., and County Councillor; Haydn Foulds, traveller for Bibby's, Liverpool; Amos Fletcher, shorthand and commercial teacher at Leeds, and examiner for the West Riding County Council; John D. Green, electrician, of Leeds; Frank Windle, electrician and wireless expert; John Smith, organist, Baptist Church; Rennie Pawson, L.R.A.M., organist and choirmaster, Riley Street Methodist Church (formerly Wesleyan); Sephton Brown, organist and choirmaster, Kelbrook; William A. Green, organist Thornton Church; Frank Pawson, bandmaster, Earby Brass Band; Edwin Firth, solo cornet, Foden's Band; Walter Firth, manager Skelmersdale Co-operative Society; Ernest S. Kay, assistant secretary Colne Weavers'

Association, who went to Ruskin College, Oxford; Harry Pawson, a distinguished minister in the United Church, Canada ; Elizabeth Hartley, L.R.A.M., contralto soloist and teacher, B.B.C. soloist; Millicent Turner, an accomplished teacher and brilliant violinist; Nellie Hartley, hospital matron, Bradford; Edna Carlisle, gymnastic teacher ; Clarissa Carlisle, teacher, Alder Hill School.

The teachers associated with Mr. Lindley contained some who served along with Mr. Leach, and those who followed included Miss S. H. Carlisle, Miss Gott, of Rawdon, Miss Teasdale, of Pickering, Miss Alice Whitehead, of Carleton, Miss Alice Cutler, of Foulridge, Miss Smith, L.L.A., Miss Carrodus, of Steeton, Miss Nellie Brown, Mr. D. Reed, of Carlisle, Mr. Chorlton, of Burnley, Mr. Stanley Green, Miss Edmondson and Miss Preston, of Skipton, Miss Thwaite, of Horton, Mrs. G. Laycock, of Cowling, Miss Calverley, of Bentham, now of Bradley, Miss McVickers, who went out to Central Africa as a missionary teacher, and Miss Shuttleworth.

Public Work

Mr. Lindley had many interests apart from his profession and he readily assisted movements for the welfare of the community. He was an ardent temperance worker, and in frequent demand as a speaker ; he was for some years president of the Skipton and District Band of Hope Union. He was one of the leading members of the Earby Naturalists' Society, and served as secretary of the Earby Floral and Horticultural Society. He was for several years a director of the Earby Shed Company. He rendered unstinted and invaluable service to the Wesleyan cause as local preacher, class leader, circuit steward, Sunday School superintendent and teacher of the adult Bible class, and trustees' secretary.

When the fine modern school was built on Alder Hill, in 1910, Mr. Lindley received the appointment of headmaster, which afforded him intense pleasure and was heartily approved by all the community. His ten years' service there was a fitting crown to a life of unstinted self-sacrificing labour for the common weal. He had been 35 years in Earby.

On his retirement he, with his devoted wife, went to reside at Balby, near Doncaster, but Mrs. Lindley passed away three years ago. They had two sons, James and Albert. James entered into the service of the Bank of Liverpool, now Martins Bank at Barnoldswick, and later joined Westminster bank at Doncaster. He is now the manager of the branch at Thorne, near Doncaster. He married Alice, the eldest daughter of the late Mr. Squire Firth, of Skipton and Earby, and they have three sons, James, Albert and David. The two eldest have had a distinguished career at Ackworth School.

Albert, Mr. Lindley, senior's, younger son, has been in America for more than 20 years. He went into the engineering business with his uncle, his mother's brother, and he has had a prosperous career. He visited Earby with his American wife three years ago, and he was delighted to greet his old friends. Mr. Lindley, the veteran schoolmaster, is now 75 years of age, and he takes a delightful interest in his old friends at Earby.

The Wesleyan Day School was discontinued as a denominational school after the West Hiding County Council became the local authority, and after the erection of the Alder Hill School in 1910 it was continued in use as an infants' school. The head teacher was Miss Waddington, and she was assisted by Miss Wilson, Miss Spencer and Miss Hartley. This arrangement continued until 1922, when the children were transferred to Alder Hill School. The school is now used solely for Sunday School purposes, and for public entertainments, and it has recently been thoroughly renovated.

J.H.

Transcribed from the Craven Herald 6 September 1935 written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

Earby Long Ago

Octogenarian Returns to Native Town

Memories of Earby Feast

During Earby Feast this week, I spent a pleasant evening with an old native of Earby, Mr. Caleb Lee, who is in his 89th year.

After residing at Morecambe for 52 years, Mr. Lee has returned to Earby to spend the eventide of his life, and has taken up residence at "Summerseat," Cemetery Road, which was for many years the abode of his friend, the late Mr. Jas. Wilson Green. Mr. Lee was born on May 6th 1848, and he was the son of Thomas and Ellen Lee, and his mother's maiden name was Riddiough. They lived in one of the cottages at the "top o' t' town opposite Robert Greenwood's grocer's shop.

The most impressive recollection of his boyhood was associated with an outbreak of fever and smallpox, which ravaged many homesteads. The next door but one to them there was a most distressing case, the family of Henry Wilkinson. Two members of the family died of smallpox and two of the fever. "Somebody had to go in and wait on them," said Mr. Lee, "and my mother took the matter in hand. Whenever she went in the stricken house and returned to her own, she took off her outer dress and threw it over the garden gate. Then they burned coffee on a shovel in the affected house, and Mrs Greenwood told them they could have as much coffee as they wanted. With the assistance of neighbors, the beds were stripped, and the bedclothes were washed in the street. There were nine in their family, but owing to the extreme care taken by the mother none of them had the smallpox."

For a short time Mr. Lee went to a school in a cottage near to Windle Bridge, and the man who "ran" the school was "Joss Heaton," but he never "larned us anything" confessed the old scholar, and he was too fond of drinking was the would-be teacher.

When he was ready for half-time he had to go to "Bentley School" (the old Grammar School) and he continued his attendance until he went full time to work when he was 12 years old.

He has happy recollections of his attendance at the old village school and of his old school mates (Jonathan Dodgson, Alfred Varley, Hugh Currer Smith and George Hartley) and he was very appreciative of the attention he received from Mr. Bentley.

A Sunday School Colleague

From his infancy he was taken to the Baptist Sunday School, which was held in the Old Chapel, and when the New Chapel was opened in Water Steet the school was held in the chapel bottom. In course of time he became a teacher, and for many years he was the superintendent along with Mr. John Brown, and they worked very well together. They always attended the school, whether it was their turn at the desk or not, and if a class was short of a teacher they were ready to fill the gap. At that time they had 400 teachers and scholars.

Mr. John Brown, who was a weaver and a farmer, also went to live at Morecambe almost 40 years ago, and he is still alive, though in a feeble state of health.

In his early days, "Earby Feast", was a glorious time, and in his exuberant recollection the old veteran exclaimed: "I never remember a wet 'un!"

For the "walking-day" the hymns were well practised for several weeks, and the singing was the special feature of the day. The two schools (Baptist and Wesleyan) formerly had a united procession, and they started at the "top 'o t' town": then they went to the Bracewell's residence at Green End, where they were admitted to the grounds; afterwards they had to walk to Thornton, where they sang their hymns round the "old love tree."

When they got back to Earby they were very hungry, but how they enjoyed the "free tea" for the scholars! He could never forget one lad, Jam Gawthrop, who exclaimed on one occasion: "Bye but I am full!" The remainder of the day was spent in a field provided for games and social pastimes, which was always an enjoyable time for the young people.

Hand Loom Weaver's Song

Mr Lee's father was a hand-loom weaver, and as was the custom at that time the loom was accommodated in the cottage. The father was fond of singing at his work, and one of his favorite songs was "Britons never shall be slaves!"

Brighter days dawned for the family, and Mr. Lee, senior, became a loomer and twister at Bracewell's Old Shed. Two sons, Caleb and John, in due time followed the same occupation as the father, John being one of the best-known loomers in the district until his death a few years ago. Mr. John Lee's son Willie, is a tackler, and along with his son, runs a prosperous grocery business in Langroyd Road. He is also a popular member of the Earby Brass Band.

The Lee family removed into the farm house at Cowgarth, where they resided for several years. The mother used to go to work occasionally, and on one Saturday morning, John and his mother being rather late, ran down one of the Cowgarth meadows for a short cut to the mill. At the bottom of the meadow they were startled by seeing something in white moving to-wards the beck in the "Bottoms." During the day a report went round the village that a certain woman was missing from her home, and John reported what they had seen, which led to the finding of the body in the bed of the stream, attired in a white apron.

Referring to the days when he was a "reiker-in" (reacher-in), Mr. Lee mentioned that over the old shed, which was a narrow building, with windows at the sides, there was a long, narrow room, lighted from the top. This room was used for knitting healds, and the healds were made of worsted material. The woman in charge of the knitting machines was called "Little Ann," and she lived at "Tommy o' Bets". The engine driver was called "Badger." but his real name was Frank Smith. He left Earby to run the engine at Bracewell's mill at Gargrave. The tacklers were Wilson Cloo (Clough) and John Wilkinson, who was also known as "Calic."

Long Walk to Work

After the New Shed was built there were times when they were short of work, and Bracewell's allowed the Lee family (father and two sons) to work for Slingsby's, at Carleton. They went one at a time, for a week in turns, and they always walked to and from Carleton over Elslack Moor-side.

ML Lee was proud to recall his vivid recollection of the visit to Earby of Lord Frederick Cavendish, which he considered one of the most memorable incidents in Earby history. "Lord Frederick," as he was affectionately called by all the people in the Skipton Division, which was then part of the North-West Division of the West Riding, addressed a meeting in the Wesleyan Schoolyard, shortly before he went to Dublin upon his ill-fated mission as newly appointed Secretary of State for Ireland in 1882. Earby, on that day, gave a glorious reception to the distinguished statesman, and the whole place was a blaze of yellow.

Any who recollect the ministry of the Rev. Walter Wynn at Earby will be interested to know how the connection was first established. Mr. Wynn had preached at Morecambe, and he made such an impression that Mr. Lee wrote to his Earby friends and told them: "You must get Walter Wynn to preach for you at Earby." The Baptist Church deacons acted upon this advice, and the result was a memorable ministry which extended for a period of 12 years.

After the mill fire at Earby in 1884, Mr. Caleb Lee with his two sisters, Jane and Alice Ann, went to Morecambe to start "company house-keeping," and they have kept for half-a-century one of the best-known "houses" in Morecambe. They staid in Skipton Street, and later they resided in Edisford Terrace, Thornton Road, and finished in Margaret Street, Bare.

They have been known to scores of families in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and have been held in the very highest esteem by all who have been associated with them.

Shortly before coming to Earby, Mr. Lee lost his elder sister, and the younger one has recently passed away. He is very fortunate now in having to reside with his niece, Mrs. Crabtree, from whom he receives every care and attention. Notwithstanding his advanced age, his hearing is as good as ever it was, and nothing delights him more than to recall the days of "Auld lang Syne."

J.H.

Transcribed from the Craven Herald 24/7/1936 written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

Earby Long Ago

More About Board School Days

How Another Headmaster Came to Border Town

The rapid growth of Earby in the early 'nineties following upon the erection of the Albion Shed and the restarting and enlargement of the Victoria Mill created a position of serious embarrassment for these who were responsible for the provision of due educational facilities.

The two existing schools, the Wesleyan and the Old Grammar School, were quite inadequate to accommodate the children of school age, and they were so overcrowded that due attention could not be given to the lessons by the children. The Wesleyan School was recognised for 198, but there were 285 on the books in 1893, and the Grammar School accommodation was recognised at 81, and this school was overcrowded. A report on the Wesleyan received after the spring examinations in 1893 brought matters to a head, and H.M. Inspector expressed the view "that if the managers of the Wesleyan School do not care to enlarge the premises I think a School Board should be formed to cope with the growing requirements of the place."

Accordingly a meeting was promptly arranged between the managers of the two schools, and a deputation from the Baptist Church, which was held in the Wesleyan School, under the presidency of the Rev. L. B. Morris, the rector of the parish. After a prolonged discussion, it was agreed to summon a ratepayers' meeting at an early date.

The meeting was accordingly held, and under the circumstances it was realised that a School Board was inevitable. The election of the School Board to serve the area of the extensive parish and township of Thornton-in-Craven was held early in 1894, and, as it has previously been noted, the successful candidates were the Rev. L. B. Morris, M.A., J.P., Mr. John Hartley (Kelbrook), Mr. George P. Hartley, the Rev. Walter Wynn and Dr. Hunter. No time was lost by the new authority in getting to work, and Mr. W. N. Berry was appointed clerk, a position which he filled with distinction. Mr. James Bailey was later appointed as school attendance officer.

A New School

Owing to the conditions prevailing at Kelbrook, where there was an old National School, a new Board School was immediately decided upon. The site of the new school had a frontage on Colne Road, which was adjoining the grounds of the Bethel Chapel (United Methodist), and there was also an entrance from Waterloo Road. The School buildings were quite imposing, and included separate departments for mixed boys and girls, and infants. Mr. H. Horbury, the master at the National School, was transferred to the new school, as was also Miss Shaw, the infant mistress.

The Earby Board School was erected in 1896, and was ready for occupation early in the following year. There was keen contention respecting the site of the new school; the Chairman and Mr. G. H. Hartley were in favour of a site off Colne Road, where the Earby District Council office is placed, but Dr. Hunter and the Rev. W. Wynn pressed for a site nearer the centre of the village, and as a compromise the site in New Road was decided upon. The school had a large central hall, with two spacious classrooms on the rear side and two similar classrooms on the front side were added later. There was also a contiguous block for the infant school, and the suite of premises included rooms for the teachers and a convenient room for the meetings of the Board and an office for the Clerk. It was considered at the time as one of the finest schools for miles around.

The appointment of headmaster proved to be a very onerous task, and the coveted position was secured by Mr. Samuel Varley Heap, of Holmfirth. Mr. Heap, who was a native of Holmfirth, was the son of Benjamin and Mary Ann Heap, and he was born in 1872. He was educated at Fartown (Huddersfield) Grammar School and Bury Grammar School, and his probationary term as a pupil teacher was served at Beaumont Street Board School, Huddersfield. He passed on to Westminster Training College, where he had a distinguished career, and he was awarded a "Double First" at the Teachers' Certificate examination. After leaving college he was engaged as assistant master at the Moldgreen Board School, Huddersfield, and later served in the same capacity in the Wooldale Board School, Holmfirth.

A Respected Businessman

He was married to Miss Betsy Bower, of Holmfirth, before he came to reside at Earby, Mrs. Heap's brother, Mr. Jonas Bower, came to Earby shortly after, and he is one of the most respected businessmen in the town, having a high-class greengrocery business in Colne Road. Mr. Heap entered upon his duties on March 1st, 1897, and his engagement lasted until December 31st, 1919. The Great War, however, interfered with his scholastic career, and he was called upon to serve in the Royal Naval Sick Berth Reserve from August 20th, 1914, to February 8th, 1919. During his residence in Earby Mr. Heap rendered invaluable service to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and he was one of the founders of the Earby Corps, and also of the Nursing Division attached to the local brigade. He held the principal offices in the Earby Corps. In 1899 he was appointed secretary and treasurer, in 1903 the first officer in Earby Corps, and superintendent in 1907, which position he retained until called up for national service in 1914. He was regarded as one of the most prominent leaders of the movement in the district. He was held in the highest regard, not only by the members of the local brigades but by the medical officers and the brigades in East Lancashire and the West Riding.

Mr. Heap was also the organising master of the Earby Evening School and Technical Instruction Classes during his term at the New Road School, and he is gratefully remembered by many who were brought into association with him there.

Mr. Heap did not aspire to any public service, but he was a prominent member of the Conservative Club, and much enjoyed discussions with the members upon the topics of the day. After leaving Earby at the end of 1919 Mr. Heap took charge of a school at Sittingbourne, Kent, and two years ago he retired, having accomplished his period of service in the profession.

Mr. Heap has kindly furnished an account of his experiences and recollections, which are as follows:

From Mr Heap's Pen

"It was on a dull Saturday afternoon in November, nearly forty years ago, that first set foot in Earby. The new Board School, erected by the School Board for Thornton-in-Craven, was nearing completion, and the School Board had invited applications for the post of headmaster. Two hundred and forty-seven replies were received, and I was fortunate enough to be selected, along with five others, to be interviewed for the post."

"On November 7th, 1896, I alighted at Earby, full of the hope and confidence of youth, being only 24 years of age. Moreover, this was my first application for a post as headmaster, so I had no previous rebuffs to damp my enthusiasm."

"From the first person I encountered outside the station I enquired the way to the Wesleyan School, where the interview was to take place. It happened to be the late Henry Judd, the greengrocer, who courteously directed me to Water Street. I picked my way through the mud in Colne Road, which was then narrow and bounded by a hawthorn hedge. Proceeding along Victoria Road I noted active signs of building, many of the houses being just ready for occupation. I digressed for a moment to see the new school building, which stood out boldly, as there was no Co-operative Central Stores at that time, nor yet any houses in Colne Road, except towards the station. When I reached Water Street I encountered the late Thomas Bailey, near his shop, and he kindly gave me final directions to the Wesleyan School. There I found the other selected applicants in a classroom. Among them were Willie Swire, of Skipton, John Clegg, of Blacko, and one named Mason, from Leeds. Who the other two were I do not remember."

"Presently a pale young man, muffled to the ears in a white neckcloth, invited us in turn to appear before the members of the School Board. This I found to be the Clerk to the Board, Mr. W. N. Berry, who was just recovering from a bad boil on the neck."

Others Present

The Rev. L. B. Morris was in the chair, and he was supported by a genial and portly gentleman whose name I discovered to be George Hartley, and a smaller, elderly member named John Hartley, of Kelbrook, the father-in-law of Mr. William Atkinson. The other two members of the School Board, Dr. Hunter and the Rev. Walter Wynn, were not present. They were absent as a minority protest against the Board's refusal to appoint a local candidate in the person of Mr. J. B. Hodgkins, headmaster of the Grammar School, or Robert Windle's Free School as it was sometimes called. This was due to the technicality of his being unqualified to superintend pupil-teachers under the regulations then in force.

"The selected candidates were interviewed in turn, the Chairman putting a few shrewd and searching questions to each. He had previously paid a personal visit to their respective schools, unknown to the candidates, and made himself well acquainted with their several merits. Finally, the managers' choice lay between Mr. John Clegg and myself. We two were again called before the Board on November 21st, and I was given the appointment. I think it was largely a triumph of youth over middle age, for Mr. Clegg was more than 20 years my senior and had had wider experience."

"On the first of March, 1897, I took up my duties at Earby, four weeks being taken up with furnishing, equipping and preparing the school for the opening day. This took place on March 29th, when I admitted 31 children of various ages. The number increased to 130 by the end of the week, and approached 300 at the end of the year. The school was originally built to accommodate 240 older scholars and 120 infants, so we had plenty of elbow-room. Miss Frances Brown, of Skipton, was in charge of the infant class, and I was assisted by Miss Mabel Pennington and Mrs. Edith Watson, of Barnoldswick. Soon the numbers increased, for Earby was growing rapidly, and additional staff had to be appointed, and Mr. John G. Vevers and Misses Bates and Stobbart were added to the staff. Meanwhile pupil teachers were appointed from time to time. At the end of the first school-year

a good report was received from Mr. P. Worley, H.M.I., and shortly the numbers grew to such an extent as to justify the classification of the infants as a separate department, under the headship of Miss Brown, who retained the post until her retirement.

School Boards Go

Year by year the school continued to grow, and at times the numbers reached 500 or more, necessitating the use of the teachers' staff room as a classroom, even after the addition of a new wing comprising two classrooms accommodating 60 pupils each. Just before the War the average attendance of the mixed department was 323, and that of the infants about 110.

"On the 'appointed day,' under the Education Act of 1902, i.e., on April 1st, 1904, the West Riding County Council became the Local Education Authority for the county and School Boards ceased to exist. In some respects this was a pity, for the old School Boards were in closer touch with the individual school and the teacher than was possible with the larger committee. Within their limited powers, however, the District Education Sub-Committee assumed the mantle of the defunct School Boards with generally satisfactory results. Earby was particularly fortunate in retaining the guidance of the late Clerk to the Board (Mr. W. N. Berry) and of the surviving members of the late School Board, and I continued to work harmoniously with them until the end of 1919 when I left to take up work in Kent."

"Now that I have retired from the teaching profession I find time to revive thoughts of my early days at Earby and to reflect upon the kindness which I received at every hand when I came there as a stranger."

"The schoolhouse, 'Applegarth,' in which I was to live, was not ready for occupation until June, so I lived with Mr. Barry Horbury, the then schoolmaster at Kelbrook, for the first three months, and thanks to him and his wife, lived very comfortably. During that time I lunched at the Albion Hall, where I regularly met Mr. James Thompson, and many were the arguments we had together. He was, if I remember rightly, interested in the Spinning Mill, later carried on by Mr. Sam Dugdale. Another argumentative acquaintance was Mr. Tom Taylor, a one-legged politician; known as 'Tom at th' gate-house.'"

Caustic Humour

"During the South African War many friendly debates with Riley Hopkinson, Tom Riley, Harry Pickles (of KayfieJd) and Inspector Hardisty, took place and are still fresh in my mind. I also remember the caustic humour of Jim and Bob Shuttleworth, of Thornton, and the familiar figure of Bob Nutter in a sou'wester going his rounds with a greengrocer's cart, in the days before he ventured into cotton. I recall, too, the parish meetings, with Wilson Green, the clerk, who always seemed out of breath, and the inevitable presence of Parker Greenwood, with his evergreen resolution relating to the original channel of the beck which he maintained to be 'into and through the Thornton parish.'"

"I sometimes hear in my mind's ear the 'Torpedoes all hot' of Ben Lord, and then by the law of association I think of his musical sons, and of the sons of Bill Hartley, the one-time Baptist organist. When I think of all these old worthies, and remember that they are no more it makes me realise that I am 'getting on' and may soon be numbered with those who have passed on."

"May I have left some lasting impression for good with the thousands that have passed through my hands during the forty-odd years of my career as a teacher."

S. V. Heap

Albert, Mr. Lindley, senior's, younger son, has been in America for more than 20 years. He went into the engineering business with his uncle, his mother's brother, and he has had a prosperous career. He visited Earby with his American wife three years ago, and he was delighted to greet his old friends. Mr. Lindley, the veteran schoolmaster, is now 75 years of age, and he takes a delightful interest in his old friends at Earby.

The Wesleyan Day School was discontinued as a denominational school after the West Hiding County Council became the local authority, and after the erection of the Alder Hill School in 1910 it was continued in use as an infants' school. The head teacher was Miss Waddington, and she was assisted by Miss Wilson, Miss Spencer and Miss Hartley. This arrangement continued until 1922, when the children were transferred to Alder Hill School. The school is now used solely for Sunday School purposes, and for public entertainments, and it has recently been thoroughly renovated.

J.H.

Transcribed from the Craven Herald 1 November 1935 written by John Hartley from a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

Epic Story of a Foundry

MP Will Open Big Extensions

In the year 1926, a man with his wife and six young children moved to Barnoldswick from Leeds and took a job at a local foundry. Three Years later, that foundry closed down, leaving the man with no money, but still his family to support. He took a small, derelict I building in the Manchester Road area which had not been used for 20 years, and by honest toil began a small foundry, employing one man, Mr. T. Riley.

Together they struggled on until 1932, when the floodwaters so well remembered by older Barnoldswick residents, swept down the ravine adjacent to Manchester Road. With it went almost all that had been achieved in those three years-equipment, stock and building. Only one thing remained the hope and courage of that one man, and the loyalty of Mr. Riley and Mr. Clifford Turner, who by that time was working at the foundry.

The man was Mr. James Ashby, founder of what we now know as Ouzledale Foundry Ltd., and which today (Friday) will see the final triumph over years of adversity when Mr. G. B. Drayson, MP for the Skipton Division, opens extensions at the Long Ing site which have cost over £60,000. Mr. Ashby (senior) died in 1941, but there is no doubt but that he truly laid the foundations on which the firm has risen to its present eminence in its own sphere.

Let us take up the growth of the firm once more at the time of the flood. Mrs. Ashby was lying seriously ill in bed at the time, and had to be carried out of the house, around which the waters were swirling. When the waters had subsided, Mr. Ashby and his faithful employees viewed the wreckage and decided to try Again. A building 20-ft. by 30-ft. was built for them, and once again they began, very slowly, to build up the business. They had to make sacrifices, and there was little money left for pleasure. From door to door they went selling fire grates, and slowly they began to prosper. In 1936, Ouzledale Foundry was registered as a limited company, and by 1930 there were 12 on the pay roll.

Came the War

The present premises were beginning to be inadequate for the expanding concern, with no room for extensions, no proper road, sewer, or proper facilities. But then came the war, and with it more difficulties. Permits were difficult to obtain; metal was in short supply; manpower was short.

When Mr. Ashby senior died in 1941, his son George took over as head of the firm. He had gone into the mill on first leaving school, but at the age of 15 had gone into the firm. He decided to increase stock and buildings at the first opportunity and looked round for a site, finally deciding on the one at Long Ing. The first building was started in 1947, and had two bays, gradually, extensions were added, and progress continued so that by 1951 Mr. Ashby began to look ahead and visualise mechanisation as a way of increasing output and economy. There was also the point that the firm was under three separate roofs, Ouzledale, Long Ing and Earby. It was decided, therefore, to start the new extensions which will be opened today, and which will make the foundry one of the most modern of its type. A further milestone in the success of the firm was the development of an all-night burning grate, which is known throughout the land, as the "Firemaster." Over 300,000 of them have been sold. It was one of the original all-night fires, and was designed and developed at the Barnoldswick works. But it is by no means the only product, Plumbers and builders castings of all descriptions are made, while new ideas are always being sought and tried.

Speeding Production

Outstanding development in the new extensions is a mechanical sand handling plant, which speeds productions, cuts costs, and also the amount of manual work, and produces a better quality casting. It was built to a design worked out by Mr. Ashby himself and can be described in broad general terms as working on the conveyor belt system. That amounted to £20,000 of the total cost.

The rest is devoted to extra amenities for the workpeople, for whom Mr. Ashby has a great regard. There are a number of beautifully appointed offices. Above is a spacious canteen, which can cater for 200 employees.

Foundry work has long been considered a tough, dirty job, and in the past it has been possible to pick out the men who work there by their black faces. But now a man dressed in the best City of London tradition might well be returning from Ouzledale, for the extensions include showers and baths which could cater for 200 men in about two hours. There is also a spacious workshop with the latest lighting and heating installations.

What has been the secret of the firm's success? "Hard work despite all the setbacks and frustrations," declared Mr. Ashby in an interview with a Craven Herald and Pioneer representative this week. "We have also ploughed money back into the firm to ensure its progress. And last, though by no means least, a number of faithful work err." And among those faithful workers are those two who were with the firm in its struggling days. Mr. Riley is now foundry manager and one of six directors, and Mr. Turner is still very much on the strength."

Perhaps the whole secret of success can be gained from the words of a letter received by Mr. Ashby recently in response to an invitation to someone who knows him well, to be present at the opening ceremony- "Provision of such facilities indicates a truly commendable interest in the welfare of your employees."

Transcribed from the Craven Herald May 25th 1954

Death of Dr. A. M. Niven

Practised 35 years in Earby

His many friends in Earby will learn with regret of the death on Sunday of Dr. A. M. Niven, aged; 77, for over 35 years a medical practitioner in the district until his retirement in September, 1955. ' He died at his home, Nibthwaite Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

During his long period of work in Earby, Dr. Niven won for himself a place in the hearts of many people. He became a family doctor in the old tradition, more of a friend than medical consultant. He also took a great interest in many voluntary and charitable organisations in the town, especially those concerned with hospitals or hospital work.

Born in, Fyvie, Aberdeenshire, Dr. Niven trained at Aberdeen University before taking up his first, post as surgeon at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, where he stayed for 12 months. The next two years he spent at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, and then went into partnership at Bath, where he stayed for four years 'until the First World War broke out. He joined the Royal Medical Corps then, rose to the rank of captain, and saw much of his services in the Middle East. After the war, an advertisement concerning a practice at Earby caught his eye, while he was on holiday and "at a loose end" to quote his own words. He answered it, came to Earby to fill in time until he found something else and, of course, stayed until ho retired.

Work For Hospitals

Dr. Niven was chairman of the old Earby Voluntary Hospital Committee for over 20 years, a body which did good work in raising money for hospitals. It was, under his chairmanship that Earby became one of the first places to introduce the system of mill contributions, under which a sum was deducted from a person's wage and put towards the upkeep of the hospitals. The Hospital Committee raised money for the first motor ambulance.

On his retirement, he paid tribute to the work of St. John Ambulance personnel, whose volunteer crews operated the hand ambulances in the early days of Dr. Niven's time in Earby. He was always interested in the work of the St. John Ambulance Association. He was a lecturer, examiner, and official surgeon to the local Association. Until its abolition with the introduction of the Health Service. Dr. Niven was chairman of Earby District Nursing Association, and Poor Law Medical Officer until 1948.

When he retired, Dr. Niven was presented with a pocket watch and cheque on behalf of his patients, who at one time numbered over 1,600, and with a dressing gown and other gifts by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Transcribed from The Craven Herald 9 June 1958. Copy kindly provided by Mrs. Ada Hannam

Earby's New Water Supply

A Common Source for Town and Village

Earby, a manufacturing town in Craven, with a population of 6000, has for years been struggling to bring itself up to date in the matter of public services, and its task is now well on the way to achievement. In matters of water supply, electric equipment for lighting and power, sewerage, road construction, and bridge building, etc., it has much lee-way to make up, but the task is being tackled with a courage worthy of all praise.

The water supply for Earby and its neighbour, Kelbrook, was up to a few years ago in the hands of private companies. When the town advanced to an important position in the cotton manufacturing world, the first duty of the newly-created Urban District Council was to acquire the private water rights.

Kelbrook's supply was from springs at "Harden Nick" and Harden Hall; Earby's source was on Bleara Moor, where there was a small reservoir. The necessary Parliamentary powers were obtained in 1921, and the council acquired the Earby undertaking by purchase, and have since obtained 350 acres of gathering ground.

The vital necessity for Earby was augmented storage, and a scheme is in course of construction which will provide an adequate storage capacity. That is expected to be completed by the end of December. The contract for the reservoir was secured by Messrs David Thompson and Sons of Carlisle, the amount involved being £12,100. The capacity is considered sufficient for the next 40 years with a developing population. The supplies at Kelbrook and Earby will synchronise, and both will be drawn from simultaneously. In a period of drought there will be no scarcity.

The storage reservoir at Earby is in the form of a basin. It will be lined with concrete. The base is solid rock, which will be covered with twelve inches of concrete. The concrete is being treated with Lake Trinidad asphalt, ensuring an absolutely water-tight artificial reservoir. The walls are of solid concrete and there can be no leakage.

It is a substantial and inexpensive job, and is being supervised by Mr. Harold Prichard, the council's water engineer, who was appointed after a valuable experience of public undertakings in Lancashire.

The water is from an underground source, headings and adits having been driven into the hill. There can, therefore, be no contamination. On analysis the water has proved to be particularly good, and is absolutely free from plumbo-solvency.

An Ample Supply

The difficulty of giving an immediate supply of water pending the completion of the reservoir has been obviated by a scheme for relaying trunk mains of a larger diameter. These, when laid, will not only guarantee a continuous water supply to all the inhabitants, but will also have a maintained head of over 150 feet heading.

That, in case of fire will be of inestimable benefit, and will enable outbreaks to be coped with without using the fire engine. The contract for the new trunk mains has been let at an estimated cost of £4,200.

The arrangement will be particularly welcome to the Kelbrook district. Hitherto the supplies have been independent of each other, and in cases of temporary failure there was no means of keeping it out. Under the present scheme the levels of the reservoirs will be so arranged that the supply will synchronise.

In the event of a shortage at the sources either at Kelbrook or on the Bleara Moor, it will be a simple matter to augment the supply from the opposite end. It is an ingenious arrangement that the supply will synchronise.

In the event of a shortage at the sources either at Kelbrook or on the Bleara Moor, it will be a simple matter to augment the supply from the opposite end. It is an ingenious arrangement and creditable to the designer.

In the matter of electricity the Earby council is awaiting a bulk supply from Nelson Corporation. This is vitally necessary for power purposes. There are signs that with the advent of electrical equipment industries other than cotton weaving will come into existence.

The council, during the last two years, has been approached by cardboard box manufacturers, laundry proprietors, sweet makers and others, with a view to new spheres of work, but they will require electric power.

In other ways Earby is going ahead, despite trade depression. And in this connection it is interesting to record that during the last two years only one section of a big mill has been closed, and there are standing idle 728 looms out of a total of 8,724 in Earby—a striking contrast to the state of things in Barnoldswick.

- *Craven Herald*

Found in an Engine Bed

Early Bible With a History

Under strange circumstances a family bible has been discovered in Earby. It was brought to light during the recent September holidays when workmen were fitting new machinery into the boiler house at Victoria Mills, Earby. The volume was found in the old engine bed. By a strange coincidence the bible is now in the hands of a certain Mr. Joseph Smith, employed at the Earby and Thornton Gas Undertaking offices, and one of the last entries in the book is of a certain Joseph Smith who was killed in action on September 19th, 1914, at the battle of the Marne. Although the present Mr. Smith belongs to an old established Earby family he can trace no connection. Extensive inquiries have not revealed anyone who can throw any light on the matter.

The bible was published in 1810 by C. Baldwin, of London, and on the front and back covers and blank pages inside the book, several generations of the Smith family are recorded.

The first owners were, apparently, a man and wife named Wilkinson and Susannah Smith. Between the years 1799 and 1815 they had nine sons and daughters, and to their eldest, William, the bible was passed on. In turn it went to William's eldest son, Joseph, and afterwards to his son, Alfred. The latter and his wife Margaret, had five children, one of whom was the soldier killed in the first World War. Their first, another Joseph, died the day after his birth, and twins Ellen and Mary Ann, died within a few months of birth.

Soldier Joseph, according to information contained in the bible was a member of the British Expeditionary Force, and of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Information obtained by relatives from the Imperial War Graves Commission in London shows that his grave was unknown but that there was a memorial either in his honour or in the honour of all the soldiers killed in the battle at a place called La Ferte in France.

Of the names listed, all are recorded as having died with the exception of William Dixon Smith, son of Alfred and Margaret Smith, and brother of Joseph.

There is little doubt that the copy would be a valuable heirloom, and indeed, would be at the present time if its rightful owner could be found. The Mr. Smith who now has the book told a *Craven Herald & Pioneer* reporter on Monday that he would be only too pleased to let anyone see it if they could throw any light on the mystery.

- *Transcribed from the Craven Herald & Pioneer*

Reader's Letters

Memories of Old Earby

When my husband's grandfather, John Bailey, was in his 90th year, he paid us a visit at our home in Barnwood, also to greet his great grand-daughter Alice, a few weeks old. He was so glad her name was to be Alice, it was her great grand-mother's name. We talked about one thing and another, then he began to talk about trees. He didn't agree with cutting down trees unless they were dead or in the way of progress. He then began to talk of when he was a young man. He remembered the field from Rake Bank to Standridge being a wood and how grand it was.

He began his married life at Burk Hall, at the bottom of Dark Lane, in the corner of Marlfield's first meadow. What an ideal spot for a house, sheltered from the North-east winds and facing South-west. The foundations can still be seen but the stones have been used for walling long since.

They set up house with two chairs, a kist, a bed, pots and pans, a hand loom and a few more necessities. No water laid on, but as he said, "The best water around here, and icy cold on the hottest day from a spring." His son Harrison Bailey was born there 120 years ago. A few years later he came to a cottage at the bottom of Stoney

Bank Lane, where he opened a grocer's shop. This was so successful, he built a house and shop on the opposite side also three more houses.

The shop was always known as Bailey's where you could buy almost anything.

Then he built Spring Mill and Spring Terrace for big families to live. Before that there wasn't a house on the right until you got to Banks farm, and no houses on the left from Stoops Hill until one reached Stoney Bank Cottages, High Bake or Bank Farm and cottage. Earby began to develop and John Bailey had a lot to do with it as he was very far seeing.

I'm not sure but I think he was surveyor at one time. He believed it was best to use the very best material even though it was out of sight. Some of his work is good to this day.

Talking about trees reminds me of Windlefield plantation. During the first World War we heard they were cutting it down. A few of us went up to see if we could do anything to stop them, but we were told there was a war on and the mines needed pit props.

I thank all those who have told me how they have enjoyed these talks of old Earby. I'm glad to have given them pleasure. I wish I had listened to more tales but we don't think in our youth.

Emma Bailey

- Craven Herald - Date Unknown

Miss Millicent Turner Elected to Earby Urban Council

Mr R Lancaster Successful in Kelbrook Contest

Miss Millicent Turner, of School Lane, Earby, became Earby's second ever woman Councillor when, on Saturday, she gained election to the Urban District Council as an Independent representative for East Ward. The only other was Mrs. E. C. B. Kay, who served from 1930 to 1936, and who now lives out of the district.

Successful in, a Kelbrook Ward by-election was Mr. Richard Lancaster, a Conservative nominee.

It was a sad day for the Labour Party. They previously held the East Ward, the casual vacancy there being caused by the death of Mr. G. Whitehead, who had a substantial majority at the May election. They might have expected to do better in Kelbrook Ward, too, than have a deficit of 131 votes; usually the result in that ward is much closer.

For Miss Turner, it was a triumph for one who, throughout, her campaign, has time and again stressed her complete "Independence." It was also adequate compensation for the disappointment of being defeated by a single vote at the May election, her victor being the present Council chairman, Mr. J. Eastwood.

She had a majority of 387, polling 619 votes against 232 by her Labour opponent, Mr. Charles Matthews.

At Kelbrook, Mr. Lancaster polled 259 votes against 128 by Mr. W. McDowell, the Labour candidate.

Miss Turner will serve until May, 1960, the unexpired portion of Mr. Whitehead's term, and Mr. Lancaster until May 1959, the unexpired period of Mr. J. N. Slater's service.

Chairman's Welcome

After the count, in New Road County Junior School, the two new councillors were welcomed by Counc. J. Eastwood, the Council chairman, who observed that the poll had not been as good as the day.

The Returning Officer (Mr. J. L. Seago), and his staff, were warmly thanked, and Mr. Seago, in turn, thanked all who had made his task lighter, with a special word for the police, and "all those who offered me lifts which, today, I was unable to accept." Politically, the result does not materially affect the position on the Council. The official

Conservatives increase their representation by one, to three. There are now three Independents, two Labour and one Non-Socialist.

The Craven Herald, November 29th, 1957

(Copy kindly provided by Mrs. Ada Hannam)

Is Historic Mill Engine Doomed?

Within the next few weeks, as Johnson Fabrics Ltd. complete modernisation of their plant in Earby, a beam engine that has run Victoria Mill, Earby, for well over 100 years, has become "redundant". It would be fair to say that round that engine, such prosperity as Earby enjoys today, and has enjoyed in the past, has been built.

Many people in Earby, and far beyond, believe that the engine should be preserved for posterity.

A Craven Herald and Pioneer reporter this week talked about this wonderful piece of machinery with a man who knows more about it than probably any other individual, Mr. "Johnny" Pickles, of Hy. Brown, Sons, and Pickles. He confirmed that as far as he was aware it was the only engine of its type still working. "It ought to be preserved," Mr. Pickles declared.

"The room that it will give if it is taken out will be neither here nor there. The amount it will bring as scrap- and it would be scrap- would be something and nothing. Preserved as a show-piece it would pay the rent, I am sure, though of course it's future has really got nothing to do with me. Yet it has been part of Earby since it was first installed in 1856."

Sixty Years Ago

Mr. Pickles first became interested in the engine in 1899, and since then has been responsible for its maintenance, and for a number of major alterations and repairs that have been carried out to it. He told us the history of the engine since he thinks that if efforts to preserve the engine itself should fail, at least its story, spanning a century of progress, boom and depression, should be for ever available. Only he knows many of the details that he gave to our reporter.

Contrary to popular belief, the engine was built at Blackburn, by J.&W. Yates, and not at Burnley. It was put in by Mr. William Bracewell, father of the man known to all, and still remembered, by the name of "Billycock." In those days there was the "Old Shed," in Earby, opposite the Brook Shed engine house, and no longer standing, Mr. Pickles said.

Originally, the engine consisted of a pair of simple engines, but in 1872, compounding was introduced, and the two were compounded by William Bracewell of Burnley. the boiler pressure was lifted from 40 to 80 pounds per square inch. In 1897, it was provided with another new boiler, and made into a four cylinder, triple expansion job. Four new cylinders were provided, and a new flywheel.

"Smash Up"

In 1905 there was what Mr. Pickles describes as a "smash up." The engine was out of action for a month, and during that time the huge flywheel - it weighs 40 tons - had machine cut teeth put round its circumference. A year later, a pair of new steel beams and a new connecting rod were fitted.

Shortly after the first World War, the engine was stopped for six months. It was "hung up" while a new foundation was put in beneath, and the engine then lowered on to it. Since then, Mr. Pickles has been responsible for boring all the cylinders, and in 1949, the air pumps were taken out, and independently condenser sets put in. Twenty tons of castings went into the work.

Mr. Pickles does not know the weight of the machine but estimates put it at 300 tons. In 1911, when the mill was used for spinning, the engine had 1,500 h.p. put on to it. The first engineer, Mr. Pickles recalls, was Mr. William Varley, of Brown & Pickles. He worked for the Blackburn manufacturers, who had installed the engine at Spring Gardens Mill, Colne.

Old Tradition

It was the usual thing for the builders of the engine in those days to provide the engine driver for the first year. Mr. Varley was sent to run the Colne engine, and his year was just about up when the engine at Victoria Mill was installed. He was sent to Earby, and stayed there until he died.

Today, Mr. Newton Pickles, runs the engine each evening. People are calling constantly, and not only from Earby, suggesting that the engine be saved. Countless hundreds of people in Earby owe their livelihood to the Victoria Mill engine.

Will it be preserved?

- Craven Herald & Pioneer 1st March 1963 (Page 11)

Backward Glance at Old Earby Folk

By Wilfred Demaine

Moving back into the centre of Earby on my tour of the district, from New Road bottom you can walk into Skipton Road, the first building in those days was occupied by Alfred Dodgson, blacksmith and engineer: next door was a small printing works owned by Charlie Garrett Hartley, a real character if ever there was one.

Charlie printed the local Advertiser, along with bill printing, invitation cards etc. He was quite a name in the town, was a member of the old West Riding County Council, president of the cricket club, and in his younger days a player in the local dramatic society, in which he had parts in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. His portrayal of the Mikado of Japan was worth seeing I am told. He and his brother Johnny played a big part in the life of Earby, Johnny was a director of Hugh Currer Smith, a cotton firm at Victoria Mill, a Methodist local preacher, and altogether a good man, generous almost to a fault.

Further along Skipton Road is the firm of Charles Watson and Son, now in the capable hands of Leslie Watson, a grandson. Charlie as he was called was another of Earby's characters, known to everyone young and old alike, he and his wife had four sons and three daughters, all prominent in some form or other, in the life of the town. Clare was a well known local soprano singer, with Grace and Jennie also in the choir at the Baptist Chapel.

Charlie was very fond of music and played host to many of the national singers who came to Earby, brass band music he enjoyed. One day St Hilda's Colliery Band came to Earby, and played marching down Victoria Road, the band passed Charlie on route but Charlie, who unfortunately had a serious accident in his younger days, could not turn his head without his whole body, so not to miss a note, Charlie walked backwards down the road until the band was out of hearing.

The rest of Skipton Road and School Lane are houses of some character, Fr Falconer lived at the crossings for a great number of years, and many well known Earby folk live and have worked in that area. The old Grammar School is there, and now Armouride, who while providing work, seem to have extended and made that corner of Earby more industrial.

Very Cosy

Now on to the far end of Water Street, there the liberal club was, in those days and the Coronation Hall, which became for a time the Cosy Cinema. I remember Sir Archibald Sinclair speak to the Liberal cause there, when W.A.Brigg, one of the twins from Kildwick Hall, put up for Parliament after Mr.Clough had been the member. It was said of William Clough that the only time he spoke in the House was to ask for a window opening, but I think that was just a tale.

In my teens I spent many happy hours at the Liberal Club, they do say that playing snooker is the sign of a mis-spent youth, be that as it may I met some very interesting men there, not I Liberals, as there were no restrictions as to your political affiliations! At snooker you played 20 minutes for four pence. George Preston, the grandfather of the present firm liked a game, but he spent most of the time playing the balls safe so that you could not score.

Coal Merchant

Jesse Turner, another coal merchant was a member as well. Draughts was a favourite with the older element and Percy Windle and Jim Demain (a relative of ours) would spend an hour or more on a game, nothing at stake of course. Darius Turner was another member, he was known for his punctuality in anything he did, one year he was asked to be the secretary for an effort at the Baptist Chapel, he arranged a meeting for half past seven one evening, went along, no one came, so at quarter to eight Darius went home. He had been in his chair about five minutes when there was a knock on the door, answering it, a voice said "What about the meeting Darius, had you forgotten," says Darius "I have been once, I am not coming again," and firmly closed the door.

He used to have a neighbour who came to visit fairly often, and had a habit of staying late. So one night Darius went out to the coal house, brought in a small shovelful of coal, put it on the fire and said to his visitor, "There the fire is made up. here is the door key, when you are ready to go, lock the door and push the key through the letterbox, I am going to bed."

Across the road from the club is the Baptist Chapel, of which I have written before, then up Stoney Bank and to Lothersdale. The story is told, and it must be a story, of Oliver Cromwell marching his troops (well he would be riding horseback) down past Bleara Side and seeing the valley before him " Here bye, in foul ridge lies a keelbrook" Then on the brow of the hill the breeze came up and he remarked " This 'll cool 'em." There was a farm called the Coolam, just be where the reservoir is.

My uncle John lived in a cottage in Stoney Bank, he once gave me some good advice which is perhaps worth passing on. He said "Think all you say, but don't say all you think," well I have not always followed that dictum, but it may be useful to someone else.

Manchester Man

Willie Crowther lived in Stoney Bank, in those days he was the "Manchester Man" for A.J.Birley. He had three sons, one of whom, Bolton, was a motor bike enthusiast. One day the father arrived at the station and found he had left some papers at the mill, would Bolton bring them for him. Bolton did on his motorbike. When he arrived at the station the train had left; he then set off to Colne, and was waiting on the platform when the train drew in.

From Water Street you came to Red Lion Street leading to top't town and Mill Brow. Tho'wd Co-op was the first building, a branch of the Victoria Road shops, then a row of rather quaint cottages which have stood the test of time very well.

Across the road was a small bridge leading to a pair of semi detached houses, in one of these lived Johnny Barker and his wife. Johnny was another real character, he had a shop opposite the Baptist Chapel, where he sold sweets, did some tailoring and sold antiques. He was very outspoken; it was a case of "take it or leave it." He was a deacon and a Sunday school secretary for many years at the Baptist Chapel, and did some good work when the new school was built.

Crumpets

On the brow of the hill was a bakehouse, where Halle Hartley made muffins, crumpets and oat cake. Halle was one of five sons of William Hartley, a well known musician and choirmaster at the Baptist Chapel. The five sons were called, Halle, Hayden, Handel, George Fredrick and Novello.

At this point there is a road leading to Cowgarth, where at this time Watson Bailey lived with his family, again they were pillars of the Baptist Chapel, and did much solid work there. Gertrude, a daughter, married the Rev. John Townsend who was the minister there. Nellie, the eldest daughter, married Ben Hindle, the Earby town clerk.

Glen Cottage in Mill Brow became during those years the home of Katherine Bruce Glasier, not an old Earbyite, but a woman who had lived in the south and was the widow of John Bruce Glasier, the labour pioneer.

Listening to her, either in conversation or at a public meeting, was real joy, she had two sons one of whom was an official with the Blue Star sailing line, the other, Glen, was at university, but was tragically killed by a football.

The garden at the rear of the house was named after Glen, it was a real pleasure to walk through. After some time Katherine's sister and her husband came to live with her, the husband Frederick Glasier Foster created quite a furore in Earby with his enthusiasm for education and social work.

When Katherine died, the home was made into a youth hostel by her wish, a continuation of the many good works she had done during her lifetime.

I have ended by telling of someone who was not an old Earbyite but many but many of Earby's sons and daughters have done much, I believe, in the outside world, as indeed those who have remained in the town have done.

If any reader has been interested in these ramblings, I shall be pleased to hear from them at 5, Hallam Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs. ST14 7NH

- Craven Herald & Pioneer - Date Unknown

Loss to Earby Baptist Church

A man who worked at Ouzledale Foundry for very many years and indeed, grew up with the firm, Mr. Edwin Clifford Turner, aged 62, of 1, Pleasant View, Earby, died suddenly at his home in the early hours of Friday.

Conscientious in everything he did, and well respected by all who knew him, Mr. Turner was born in Sheffield, but had lived in Earby since 1906. He was a member of a very well known family, and had been associated with Mount Zion Baptist Church virtually all his life. He had been in the choir for 40 years. Mr. Turner began his working career as an apprentice with the late Mr. J. Ashby when he established a foundry at Little Ouzledale.

He was working with the firm at the time of the flood in July 1932 when the plant was virtually destroyed, but remained loyal, and saw the firm later prosper and move to the present modern premises at Long Ing.

A Liberal, Mr. Turner was a supporter of Earby Cricket Club and very fond of gardening, and particularly of roses. He is survived by a wife, son and two daughters.

A service in Mount Zion Baptist Church, Earby, on Tuesday, was followed by cremation at Skipton, the Rev.P.Wightman officiating.

The Craven Herald, October 28th, 1966

An Earby Romance

Some Personal Reminiscences (of Mr R.Wormwell)

In our issue of December 28th last there appeared an article on "Churches, Chimes and Chances : An Earby Romance" specially written for the Herald by "G". It gave the story of a gift of a peal of bells to St Phillip's Church, Nelson, one half of the peal of eight bells being presented by Mr R.Wormwell, now of Higher Haulgh Head Farm, Burnley, and a native of Earby. It is gratifying to us - and it will naturally be to the writer of the article - to learn, on the authority of an official of St Phillip's Church that, with reference to our description of the dedication of the peal, and of the interesting incidents which lead up to the gift of the bells, "the report of St Philip's bells dedication in the Craven Herald was fine - the best report ever printed on St. Phillip's". This official also kindly acted as intermediary between Mr.Wormwell and the writer of the article, the latter of whom asked for some personal details of Mr. Wormwell's family to supplement those contained in the article which appeared in the Herald. In complying with the request, Mr.Wormwell prefaces his biographical sketch with the following message to his correspondent :- "I sincerely trust that your new church bells may have brought a great joy and gladness to thousands of people in the parish of St. Phillip's and the town of Nelson; and, as the anniversary of your bells' dedication service will always herald in the triumphant season of the birth of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, I trust that they may be the means of bringing cheer and comfort to a great many generations of people yet to come."

A Race from Manchester to Kelbrook

In the course of his letter, Mr. Wormwell says, "About the beginning of the 19th century there was - and for anything I know to the contrary there still is - a small weaving shed at the top end of the village of Kelbrook called Dotcliffe Mill. I do not know whether or not my grandfather owned that mill. but he was a manufacturer of cotton process there. This was before the time of the railways and he had to travel to and fro on the old stage coach. I have heard it said that on one occasion he missed the coach on the return journey, and he was so exasperated over them leaving him that he swore he would be home before it and he ran all the way from Manchester to Kelbrook. I do not know which one won the race: and I expect it is a story with a bit of elastic attached to it.

A Fatal Fire at Kelbrook

" Subsequently there was a fire at the mill which cost him his life. He was not burned to death but he over exerted himself by carrying pieces from the burning building, which caused his death. This man had seven sons and one daughter- probably more but these are what I knew - who grew up : John, Hartley, Matthew, Mark, Luke, Peter and Thomas, and the girl Jane, always known as Jinny. I think she was the youngest. She went to the Victoria Hotel, Haslingden. She had two husbands and she kept the house on a great many years after the decease of them both. She had one son called John, and he was for many years the goods manager at Haslingden railway station.

"I could not pretend in this brief summary to follow the careers of seven sons, but I should like to say a word or two about John. He was the eldest and he occupied the farm in close proximity to Kelbrook Church, which with the grave yard attached is built upon it. I do not know whether or not it had belonged to the father or not or whether he bought it some time afterwards; anyway it was his own property and he established a grocery and butchering business in connection with it , and at one time supplied a proportion of the village with meat and groceries. He attended the markets round and about with his horse and trap and was a good business man but, like most of us , he had a weak spot and that was getting another glass after he had had enough and then driving off, tumbling out of the trap , and getting run over. I do not know how many legs and arms he had broken, but I think every bone he had under his skin. He always pulled through; he was as hard as nails and lived to over eighty years of age and left a decent pot of money for those who had to follow.

A Kelbrook Conscript

He was once called upon, I do not know which war it was , nor the date, but it would probably be about the year 1830. Conscripts then had to take a horse with them if they either had one or could get one and he had to go and take his horse with him.

I think Luke would be the fifth son. He was my father. He went onto a farm on Colne Moor called Nar End. It is about a mile from Black Lane Ends, going Cowling way. Here I was born and brought up in a semi wild condition until I was about 17 or 18 years of age. They were then laying down the new line of railway from Earby to Barnoldswick, and I went working on that for about twelve months. Then I drifted on to Nelson, Brierfield and Burnley and initiated myself into the "art and science" of the stone mason and bricklayer. I was almost the first man on the job when they started to build the Burnley Workhouse fifty years ago. I worked at the Seed Hill Bridge Mill, Nelson; Messrs Tunstill's Mills, Brierfield; the Primitive Methodist Schools; the Fulfilled Wesleyan Schools, Burnley; and nearly all the principal buildings in course of erection between 1870 and 1900, besides building two or three mill chimneys.

First Marriage at Brierfield Church

On the 24th of March, 1873, I married the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Lee, of Higher Haulgh Head. This farm is just inside the township of Reedley Hallows, not far from Burnley Lane Head. We were the first couple to be married at Brierfield Church. We had eleven children, nine of whom are living today. I took over the farm in 1880 which had been in the family for several generations, but I followed my occupation as mason and builder, besides running the farm, for some twenty years. Then I went into business as an agricultural produce merchant which, combined with the farm, I am still carrying on up to the present time. I had the misfortune my lose my dear partner nearly twenty years ago when, after nearly six years of suffering as a helpless invalid, God took her away but left me the blessing of a family of good children.

Past and Modern Education

"I was the youngest of the family and I believe that I am the only one who is living of all the children of seven sons and daughter I mentioned at the beginning, except James at Earby, who I understand is on his death bed. I went to Sunday school and learned to read and spell . I went to a day school one quarter and paid two pence a week and had a penny slate and a halfpenny worth of slate pencils; and when I ask the young people who have had a hundred pounds spent on their education how much that comes to , some of them can't tell me. I attended a night school about one night a week for one winter and there was initiated into the mysteries of a bit of writing and figuring. The work of education was carried on at that day through the love of God; now it is carried on through the love of a thousand a year".

A Thank Offering

"Now I know there are a lot of people who wish to know why I gave those bells to St Phillip's Church. Well I say I gave them as a thank offering. About twelve years ago I became afflicted with an internal trouble and after vainly trying to cure myself for two or three years I went into St Peter's Hospital, London. I was there seventeen weeks and had three operations performed on me while there; and so you may know that I came very near to the gates of Heaven. But it seems that I had not finished my life's work here and I was sent back to complete it and the giving of those bells to St. Phillip's Church as a thank offering for my deliverance on that occasion was a part of the work I was sent back to do. But, you say, you could have bestowed your thank offering in hundreds of different ways - Yes I know, but I always ask God to guide me aright and I believe I am so guided. It was the will of God and the church and tower needed them . End may the blessing of God always rest upon them.