

Earby Chronicles

Edition 100

Spring 2021

www.earbyhistory.co.uk



100th Edition of the Chronicles with a look back at the historical heritage of Earby, Thornton-in-Craven, Kelbrook, Harden, Salterforth and the surrounding area

SOCIETY AIMS:

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

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Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of information in this edition, this cannot be guaranteed.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget this is your newsletter.

Send in articles, photos and any other anecdotes, so that we get as wide a flavour of Earby & District, yes that means Thornton in Craven, Kelbrook, Sough, Harden and Salterforth as well.

Editor Stephanie Carter

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AND THE BAND PLAYS ON

Jim Pyrah, who now lives in Richmond, played in Earby Brass Band in the 1980s. He sent us this photograph of the band playing near the allotments in the early 1990s. "The History of Earby Brass Band" may be purchased through accessing the Society website.



MICHAEL CREWDSON REMEMBERS SALTERFORTH MILL

I was very interested to read the article about Slater's Mill in Salterforth, I had forgotten all about this weaving Mill, but remember my Dad, Allan Crewdson, telling us a long time ago that he actually worked there for a short while when he came back from the Second World War, serving with The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, before he worked at Bristol Tractors.

He was in some kind of "Selling Position" and did an advertising display for the 1951 Festival of Britain. Over the page is a photo with Dad standing proudly in a display window, although I am not sure where this display was.

Also I do remember attending a Children's Christmas Party, not sure of the year, but I think it was c 1950 or could have been 1949 (see photo over). That's me (Michael Crewdson) on the front row in some kind of fashionable suit with fancy hat with two balloons and

holding my gift from Santa, which was a box of lead soldiers. Stood next to me in a dark coat and knitted helmet is Ernie Waugh from Earby, also with a box of soldiers. My sister Hazel is stood directly behind Ernie... Wonder if anyone else can recognise anyone ?



EARLY DAYS OF THE SALTERFORTH SHED COMPANY

Stephanie Carter

In 1887 the Salterforth Shed Company's plans to build a cotton weaving shed in Salterforth were put into operation. The architect was Mr H Holgate of Colne and the contractors were as follows:

Mason work Messrs. Sagar and Thornton, Barnoldswick

Joinery Mr P Robinson, Colne

Iron Founders & Mill Wrights Ellison & Fawcett, Skipton

Slating Wm. Stanworth, Burnley

Plumbing & Glazing W Varley & Son, Colne

Boiler W & J Yates, Blackburn

In November 1887 Mr Holgate advertised for an engineer to construct and erect an engine at the shed. Messrs. William Roberts & Co., engineers of Nelson, won the contract. The building was to hold 400 looms and was prepared for an extension of an additional 200 looms.

It was reported that most of the capital of £6000 had been taken up in £5 shares. The building, a steam-powered room and power cotton weaving mill, owned by the Salterforth Shed Company, was "pushed forward with all possible speed" and was completed by November 1888. Mr James Slater of Barnoldswick had taken half the shed and was putting in 56 new looms and, in addition to those, he was to remove his 144 looms from Clough Mill, Barnoldswick. The new engine was started by Mrs James Slater in December 1888 and named "Carrie" after the daughter of Mr Delaney of Settle, one of the directors of the Company. After the engine had been started and run for a short time, a large number sat down to a "free meat tea", to which all the inhabitants of the village and the workforce employed in the erection of the shed had been invited.

The early years of Salterforth Shed were witness to several ups and

downs. In December 1888 the weavers employed by James Slater at the new shed were having 1½d a loom a week stopped from their wages to defray the cost of "cartage" (transporting goods by road) to and from the station, which was about a mile away. Mr Slater claimed the charge was "for local disadvantages".

Space at the shed was also let to Messrs. Shaw and Jackson, and an incident involving their mill manager was reported in the Burnley Express in May 1892.

"The alleged embezzlement by a mill manager

At the Skipton Petty Sessions on Saturday, Percy William Pilkington, who until recently was employed as manager, cashier and salesman for Mr J Shaw, manufacturer, of Salterforth, was brought up on remand and charged with embezzling several sums of money from his employer. Mr W A Robinson prosecuted and Mr Davies of Nelson defended. When approached at the Great Eastern Hotel, New Ferry near Birkenhead on the 17th May, prisoner in answer to the charge remarked that Shaw was "a----- fellow; that he owed him (Pilkington) £38 and that he would sooner give Shaw a sovereign than take a shilling from him". Mr Davies was instructed to say that Mr Shaw had borrowed £50 from Pilkington in August last, and that he was only repaying himself by arrangement, when he took the sums mentioned. After a very long hearing, the Bench committed prisoner for trial at the Quarter Sessions. Bail was allowed – himself in £50 and two sureties of £50 each."

In July at the Bradford Quarter Sessions, Percy William Pilkington pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing £12 and other sums of money, the property of his employer James Shaw in March and April last. He was sentenced to 18 months hard labour.

According to William Atkinson in his 1914/15 book "Old Barlick", Salterforth Mill was extended in 1899 to house another 238 looms. Mr James Slater of Coates had been one of the principal tenants.

Messrs. Shaw and Jackson sold out to Messrs. Brown and Whiteoak and when the loom capacity increased, 400 looms were leased to A

Brown with Messrs. James Slater renting 200.

In April 1900 "A Salterforth Manufacturer's Offence" was reported in the local press. At the Skipton Police Court James Slater, manufacturer, of Salterforth near Barnoldswick, was summoned for infringing the law respecting lime-washing his mill periodically. The prosecution was conducted by the newly appointed factory inspector for the district. The defendant admitted the offence so far as the last year was concerned, but denied the accuracy of the statement of the inspector that the lime-washing had not been carried out since 1895. It was true that that was the last entry, but he explained that the missing entries were due to the carelessness of the foreman. The magistrates imposed a fine of 10 shillings and costs. **To be continued**

THE MOSLEYS COME TO EARBY

By Malcolm Mosley with additional research by Bob Abel

In the 1890s Earby was a growing and vibrant textile town and many people were attracted to the prospects that the town offered. There were mills opening and things were looking up for Earby.

It was not only mill workers who migrated to Earby but also business people to cater for the needs of a growing population.



One of these entrepreneurs was Seth Mosley a master tailor. In fact Seth came from a tailoring family in that both his father, George, and his elder brother, John, (left) were both tailors.

In 1851 we find the father, George, in Oakworth near Keighley lodging with and apprenticed to Thomas Robinson a tailor. His name is spelt with a z ie Mozley. Malcolm suggests that the name was changed

to Mosley as there were two Mozleys in Oakworth who were always being mistaken for the other and our George made the name change.

Ten years later he had completed his apprenticeship and was a tailor in his own right and by then he had married and had four young children. He was still in Oakworth. Seth was born in 1866 and by the 1871 census their eldest son John (aged 15) was working with his father as a tailor. By 1881 John had moved away but Seth was now working with George as a tailor. John must have moved to Buttershaw as he is listed with his wife and baby as a visitor with George. The baby was born in Buttershaw. The 1891 census confirms this as John is listed as a tailor and draper in Buttershaw. Seth (tailor) was living with them but at 25 years old he was listed as a widower. He had married Mary Jane Riley (Janie) in 1889 but she died the next year and is buried in her family plot at Utley Cemetery.

In about 1894 Seth's brother John moved to Driffield where he set up in business as a tailor and draper and in 1897 Seth moved to Earby to start a tailoring business. In the meantime Seth had remarried to Sarah Wilkinson in 1896 and had a baby son, Jack. Sarah came from a large farming family in Oakworth.

Seth had a younger brother, Holmes Mosley, who didn't go into tailoring but became an engineering pattern maker.

In 1904 John went into partnership with a man called Adamson and they advertised as Mosley and Adamson, Practical Tailors and Outfitters etc, Market Place, Driffield. The partnership was to be short lived as John died that same year and was interred back in Oakworth.

Meanwhile in Earby Seth was settling down. He had moved into a newly built property, 64 Victoria Road. Seth had it adapted to the needs of a clothing business with a work room upstairs and a fitting room in the back downstairs room and shelving in the shop to hold the bolts of cloth.

Not long after they went to live at 13 School Lane, keeping on number 64 solely as a shop. Seth and Sarah had another son, George, who was born in 1900.



SETH MOSLEY,
LADIES' & GENT.'S
TAILOR,
64, Victoria Road,
Earby.

All the Latest Novelties
in Ladies' and Gent.'s
Materials for the coming
season.

A trial respectfully solicited.

MOURNING ORDERS
promptly attended to.

New Workshop over
Dodgson's Smithy,
Skipton Road.

Like his brother John, Seth was active in the Baptist church. He was for a number of years superintendent of Mount Zion Baptist Sunday school and the family always had connections with Slack Lane Baptist Chapel Oakworth. A newspaper article in the Burnley News (8th November 1913) relates that Seth presided at a weekly Women's Own in connection with the United Methodist Church, where the Rev T Thompson gave the address.

When Jack left school he started his working life as a

clerk in a mill office but the slump came and he was out of work. His Dad persuaded and paid for him to go to a Tailoring College in London where he got a Diploma in Tailoring.

Both Seth and Sarah died in their 50's. Sarah died in 1923 aged 58 and Seth the following year aged 59 and they were both buried like Seth's brother John in Oakworth.

Jack married Sarah E Hodgson in 1923. Sarah's (always known as Cissie) birth was registered in Keighley in 1898. They had two boys, Douglas in 1923 and Malcolm in 1931. Tragedy struck the family in 1940. Douglas went to Blackpool for a summer holiday and unfortunately developed Pneumonia and died there at the age of 16.

Jack was always interested in village life and was for several years Secretary and Treasurer of the Earby Voluntary Hospital Committee. This was disbanded when NHS came into being in 1947.

Jack carried on the tailoring business after the death of his father.

In the 1939 register Jack is described as a Master Tailor and was an ARP Warden. Jack's brother George was living with the family, he was described as a farm labourer.

Jack was agent for Yorkshire Cleaners and Proofers of Wyke Bradford and this was a good service because during the Second World War people couldn't get new clothes (they were rationed and on coupons) so they had to make their old ones last and had them cleaned.

Jack had only dealt with bespoke, made to measure, clothes. Montague Burton, Fifty Shilling Tailors, etc. were "dirty words". They did a lot to take his trade but really I think he was glad to do something different. He couldn't really compete with the bigger boys.

The business carried on until 1951 when the premises were turned into the post office and Jack took on the mantle of sub-postmaster, but that's another story.

He was always interested in figure work being treasurer for different things. He was Church treasurer at one time and as noted earlier he was treasurer for the local hospital committee.

Malcolm left Ermysteds Grammar School when he was 16 and went as a junior clerk at Martins Bank (now Barclays) in Skipton.

When he was 18 he had to do two years National Service which he did in the RAF. When he was demobbed he went back to Martins, this time at Colne, for two months before he left to work with his dad in the post office.

RILEY STREET ANNIVERSARY – PROCESSION OF WITNESS

Barnoldswick and Earby Times June 1942

Many old scholars of the Riley Street Methodist Church Sunday School were present in the considerable church procession which marched through Earby on Sunday morning last. This impressive scene, which marked the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Riley Street Sunday School, brought back to many onlookers memories

that still linger with them of church walks in which all the denominations joined and on which very happy memories of an older Earby centre. The Circuit Minister, the Rev. J A Bennett and Superintendents of the Sunday School (Mr F Tuley and Mr A Astin) accompanied the procession and many church workers, lay preachers and members of the congregation were present. A contingent of Boy Scouts from Calf Hall, Barnoldswick, headed the procession, followed by the Rose Queen, Miss Marjorie Willis, and her retinue. The walkers set off at 9.20am from Rostle Top Road and halts were made at various stages of the journey where hymns were sung under the direction of Mr Rennie Pawson L.R.A.M.

Old Scholars Honoured

In addition to halts being made for this purpose at Earby Station, Colne Road, Victoria Road and Water Street, the singers stopped at the residence of an old Sunday School scholar, Mrs Duxbury, of Green End Road, who is in her 95th year and who during the singing came out to smilingly greet and thank her old colleagues.

At the morning service at Riley Street, which followed the walk, the Rev. W R Hasler, of Bolton, made an impressive appeal to parents and church workers to realise their profound responsibility for the religious training of the young. He reminded his hearers of the terrible consequences to the world in death and destruction that had followed Germany's repudiation of Christ's message of human fellowship and love and the substitution of a belief in world domination, hatred and oppression. Anthems were sung by the ladies choir, the conductor being Mr Rennie Pawson. The soloist was Miss Kathleen Pawson.

Children's Service

An interesting and varied programme to which the Sunday School scholars very ably contributed constituted the afternoon service of the anniversary. Scholars of all ages took part in the singing of hymns and recitations. The chairman during this service was Mr D S Rycroft, of Barnoldswick and the Rev. W Hasler gave a short and topical address on "Passports".

Way of the Cross

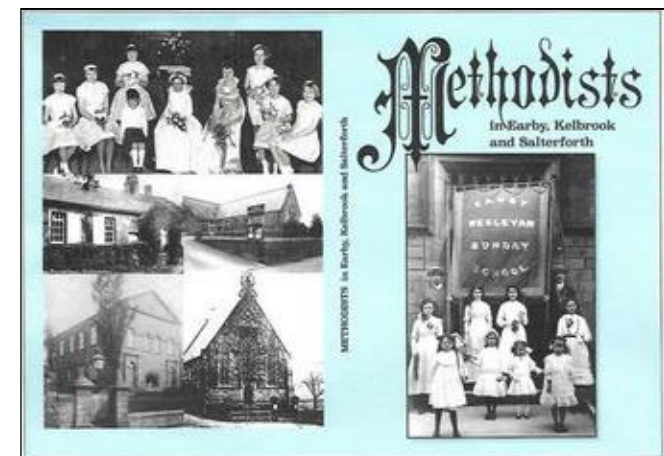
The Rev. Hasler was again the preacher at the evening service and a considerable congregation was present to hear an appeal which touched a very high note of eloquence and sincerity for a return to a way of life advocated by the simple carpenter of Galilee. ...

Anthems were very ably rendered in three part music by the Ladies choir under the direction of Mr Rennie Pawson, and two solos "The Holy City" and "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings" were given by Miss Vera Whitehead.

An interesting feature at the anniversary services was a display of a number of biblical models representing scenes and structures made familiar in Bible stories. These included replicas of a house at Capernaum, an Arab's tent, a Jewish tomb, a Tabernacle in the wilderness, a peasant's country cottage, a city house with dome and a sheep fold.

Note from the Editor, Stephanie Carter

I was two months old when this event took place, but 78 years later have written a History of the Methodist Church in Earby, Kelbrook and Salterforth, to celebrate the opening of the first Methodist Church in Earby 200 years ago (1821). It is available NOW by phoning Bob Abel on 01282 812599 or emailing info@earbyhistory.co.uk



BLASTS FROM THE PAST

1940

Siren Test
The official report on the siren test carried out at Earby on Thursday morning of last week is of a satisfactorily nature. The siren at the Police Station was sounded and it is considered that in the event of an air attack the district could be adequately warned.

1942

Bells of St. Mary's.
Kelbrook's bells, silent since the order to "cease ringing" was issued about two years ago were heard once again on Sunday, November 16th, when the thanksgiving peal rang out in celebration of the inspiring victory gained by General Alexander's forces in North Africa. The event has called forth some interesting details from Councillor W. Bishop, on Kelbrook clock and bells. St. Mary's Church possesses two bells, one cast in 1858—the year in which the clock was installed, and the other, a smaller one, 20 years earlier, in 1838. The large bell weighs about 4 cwts. The church, therefore, possessed only one bell at the time of its consecration in 1839. Both bells were rung by the retired verger, Mr. Naylor in honour of the North African campaign.

MEMORIES OF KELBROOK VILLAGE

90 YEARS AGO

Part 3 of the late Kathleen Bannister's (nee Astin) Memoir

Leisure

We children invented our own entertainments. Outdoors we could play out safely – the empty roads were great for tops and whip, skipping, marbles, tig etc. and as the evening light faded the older children gathered under the gas lamps or on the bridge until called in. Then in the warm kitchen we were round the table drawing, painting, writing or whatever and we always had books to read or piano practise to do until bed time. Teddies and dolls were part of our family and joined in.

Our church and Methodist chapel Sunday schools provided not only our worship and spiritual developments but happy leisure activities as well; socials, concerts, parties and I remember celebrating events like the Fruit Banquets after Harvest Festival weekends. Lots of fun! Walking days together. For the adults and older children there were whist drives, beetle drives and dances in the Sunday school rooms. Rambles involving whole families to near-by places of interest like Noyna Rocks, Earby Waterfalls and Wycoller Dene were very popular.

Left to our own devices, Harden Nick (the cloughs) was our favourite during the long often hot summer holidays. It was our lovely inspirational haven on our doorstep, with an ideal beck to dam up, thus creating a good big pond deep enough to swim in. Our clogs enabled us to kick out big sods, perfect for blocking up the leaks in the dam.

Down in the village beck the boys regularly tickled trout – we all caught fish and our back door steps usually revealed jam jars proudly containing fish or frog spawn – poor things! Paris Farm was another favourite picnic place, especially because it had two see-saws and a little shop.

In autumn we gathered blackberries and bilberries – lovely pies- we

often went wooding collecting fallen branches, old pieces of wood and sticks which helped to supplement the weekly bag of coal – our life-line.

The peace was kept in Kelbrook by our own policeman. We called him Bobby Redneck! He lived on Colne Road near the chapel and over his door was a helmet shaped identification plaque. He dealt with any mischief makers in his own effectual way. Actually we kids were very scared of him.

The Astin family was brought up in the Methodist Chapel and I have treasured memories of our leaders, Higson Walton (Rita's dad) our much loved devout Sunday School teacher and choir-master, and Crispin Demain, always there, keeping things running smoothly and looking after us all. Life down the road in the Church of England was much the same and had equally faithful servants and prospered. In my childhood both places of worship had large congregations every Sunday. These places were the centre of our village life and sadly the Chapel closed in 1982.

The Coronation

Possibly the most memorable event was the Coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth (later Queen Mother) in 1936. This was celebrated in every town and village with its own jamboree – street parties etc. A jolly procession through Kelbrook and Earby with tableaux of all descriptions on lorries was mightily exciting and the Band played.

Kelbrook school had its own tableau – Kings and Queens of Great Britain and Miss Naylor and Miss Garside made our costumes. I was Mary Queen of Scots because I had ginger hair! I only learnt later that I was beheaded! All but two of us, (Hilda Lord) and me, have passed on, but we still remember them.

I have now reached the age of 90 and the rest is another story. Now just think, we children were born before phone or internet, before radio and television, fridges and freezers, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, dishwashers, central heating and electric blankets. We had no ball point pens, disposable nappies, pizzas or the take-always

much enjoyed today.

I would not like the old days back but we were healthy and happy, and I cherish my wonderful childhood, in our special, beautiful village – the place I love best in the whole world - Kelbrook.



JOTTINGS ON HAGUE

Gleaned from findmypast by the Editor

1823 August

Three farms for sale:

- a very improvable farm called Little Hague or Stone Trough in the occupation of Thomas Berry Junior, consisting of house, barn and several closes of meadow, pasture and arable land
- also Middle Hague – as above but in the occupation of Thomas Berry Senior
- a desirable farm called Great Hague in the occupation of James Bolton.

(James Bolton of Far Hague died aged 91 in 1845)

Hague House Academy

A detailed investigation into Tunncliffe's Academy at Hague House by Bob Abel can be read in the Chronicles Summer 2003 and Spring 2004.

HAGUE HOUSE ACADEMY.
NEAR COLNE, LANCASHIRE.

Mr. TUNNICLIFFE, jun., son of the celebrated Calligraphist, begs to return his sincere thanks to his friends and to the public, for the kind patronage and liberal support with which he has been honoured since he opened the above establishment; and trusts, by unremitting attention to the duties of his profession, to merit a continuance of similar favours.

The course of instruction comprises all the subjects of learning which are taught in the best schools, and Mr. T. can assure those parents who may confide their sons to his care that the utmost attention will be paid to their domestic comfort, to the cultivation of moral and industrious habits, and to the impartation of such an education as will qualify them for the various avocations of commercial life.

Mr. T. having spent a considerable time in France, is able to communicate the French language in its genuine accent. From a thorough and intimate knowledge of the art of calligraphy in all its varieties, Mr. T. can pronounce, with the utmost confidence, his capability of radically changing, in a very short time, the most irregular and badly formed handwriting into a round, free, and commercial or **counting-house** style. The system adopted in effecting this rapid change is peculiarly Mr. T.'s own, and its efficiency has been sufficiently tested by the uniformly excellent results of his 20 years' practice in teaching it. Mr. T., who has conducted educational establishments continuously for upwards of 30 years, has been honoured, at different times, with highly gratifying testimonials of his scholastic, literary, and scientific abilities, by distinguished educators, and by editors of mathematical and scientific journals.

Terms, which are very moderate, subjects taught, and other particulars, with a list of the addresses of all parties whose sons were under the tuition of Mr. T. during the last year, may be had on application by letter. The age and requirements of any youth being known, the exact cost of boarding and educating him, per half-year, will be given; and, which cost, be it understood, will include all the **unadvertised, unexpected, and, consequently much complained of** extras, which too frequently characterise boarding-school accounts.

The duties of the establishment will be resumed on the 22nd of January, 1861.

Address, C. TUNNICLIFFE, **Hague House Academy,** near Colne, Lancashire.

1859 April

Charles Tunncliffe gave a lecture entitled "The Earth" to members of Earby Mutual Improvement Society, chaired by Rev. Ryland the Baptist Minister. It was delivered in "the most pleasing and convincing manner" and "such was the interest that numbers were unable to obtain admittance to the crowded village schoolroom in which it was given".

1861 The Academy also had a cricket ground on which the scholars took on a team of boys from Colne Junior Club.

1864 Nov.

A presentation was made to Mr Tunncliffe of a silver tea and coffee service and an illuminated address by past and present scholars

1865 and 1866

Adverts included thanks for the presentation and continuation of the school

1870

In June a cricket match was played at the school against a Colne 2nd XI and was an easy victory for the Hague House team.

In December an advert intimated that the school was to be disposed of immediately and a valuation of the furniture was sought. Mr Tunncliffe was "resolved to resign from the scholastic profession". The school could accommodate 30 boys and had an annual average of 26 since its establishment.

1871

Charles Tunncliffe's father, Charles Senior, died aged 90 in Baildon. He was an excellent teacher, artist and calligrapher, being "one of the best penmen Yorkshire has provided".

1889 March

Walter Bracewell of Hague House was appointed to the Board of Guardians

1901

Mrs Pickles of Great Hague Farm advertised for a servant "to wash, bake and do general housework".

1913 November

An application was made to the Kelbrook Water Co. for them to supply water to Hague Houses and Little Hague Farm and Stone Trough.

1917 August

Death of a soldier whilst a prisoner in Germany. Pte Harry Ormerod of the Duke of Wellington's regiment was the son of Mr & Mrs Sutcliffe Ormerod of Middle Hague. He had been captured along with another Kelbrook soldier, Pte Stephen Cowgill.

1929 November

Little Hague Farm 41 acres for sale

1931 January

81st birthday of John Swire of Hague House Farm. He had completed 61 years as a local Inghamite preacher. He preached every Sunday, walking to Salterforth Chapel. When aged 12 he learnt to play the bass violin and for some time provided the only instrumental music at Salterforth Inghamite Chapel.

1950

An arrowhead was found in the garden of Miss H Thompson, New Hague Cottages and was reported to be Neolithic flint work about 3,500 years old.

THE BLIZZARDS OF 1947

The winter of 1946-47 lives long in the memory of those who lived through it. The 14th February edition of the Barnoldswick and Earby Times reported on conditions under the headline "The Blizzard Tells Its Story".

"West Craven has been more severely affected during the second week of the blizzard than in the first. Particular problems for outlying

farms are supplies of food, paraffin and coal, and collections of milk, as well as the constant search for buried sheep.

A sudden shifting of the wind undid much of what had been achieved in road clearance. Veering from North to East, it blocked the Earby to Skipton road at the top of Wysick after traffic had been running for a day, and it also blocked one track of the Skipton-Colne railway from near the Punch Bowl Hotel. The Earby-Colne road was kept open with difficulty over the exposed lengths near New Hague...

The hill farms in Harden felt the full force of the wind coming down Elslack Moor and Hawshaw Moor. A reporter found farmers in some cases for the third and fourth day, prodding deep snow drifts and dragging out sheep. The fact that they keep together in goups made them easier to find; when dug out they often had a thick coating of ice which was chipped off with a shovel.

Although snow had piled up high to the walls and his stiles, there was no difficulty in getting over. The snow had a firm crust of ice, and a man's feet sunk only a few inches in drifts of well over ten feet. Where the grass had been swept of any depth of snow every blade of grass was crusted with ice and crackled underfoot like a splinter of glass. A brilliant sun threw up a dazzling reflection, giving the whole valley an unusual beauty, produced a rainbow effect as it shone through a spin-drift of powdery snow curling from a wall top, and was hidden in a biting, swirling cloud.

The wind was the chief enemy of shovel gangs on roads and railways, but the Earby-Skipton road, cleared again by Sunday, was kept open until Monday, when a heavy lorry became jammed across the narrow lane through high walls of snow and brought traffic to a standstill.

Approaching Earby crossing from Thornton, a goods train stuck in the snow drifts. Attempts to tow it clear faded and resulted in two trucks being derailed. Single line traffic was again necessary, and trains appeared under a pilot.

Workmen digging a way through Stoney Bank road were forced to give up on Monday afternoon by the severity of the wind. West Cra-

ven schools have been without milk. In the towns there was the unusual sight of one or two farmers making their rounds dragging milk cans on sledges..."

Five Trains Imprisoned
. L.M.S. snowplough teams, reinforced by German prisoners of war, were busy to-day releasing five trains which had been imprisoned overnight by deep snowdrifts in Thornton-in-Craven on the Skipton-Colne line. Last night the 6.51 Skipton to Blackpool train stuck fast. A similar fate befel the 7.30 p.m. "push and pull" passenger train from Earby to Skipton which, however, was empty.
Three relief trains were sent to the rescue, but they in turn became prisoners of the snow. The drivers and firemen of the trains had to stay in their cabins all night.
Driver G. Dean and Fireman Dent, of Skipton, who drove a passenger engine to relieve the crews of the two stranded trains spent hours digging a way through.

The Harsher Side **M**AGPIES and crows tearing out the eyes from frozen sheep, foxes becoming unusually bold, and sheep wandering in the streets; these incidents in many of the West Riding's remoter towns show the harsher side of King winter's rule.
Around Earby, where foxes are normally scarce, workmen making structural alterations at Grove Shed saw a fine specimen inside the building. They gave chase, but Reynard got away through a broken wall.
The little owl is another that does not normally hanker after town life, but an Earby man found one in his garden with hardly enough strength to move. He caught it easily and took it inside for warmth, but it soon died.

I recall my father, William Shuttleworth, of North Holme Farm telling me how they had to dig a snow tunnel between the shippon and the milk cooling house across the farmyard. All the cow's water-bowls were frozen and the cows had to be taken individually to the well to drink. He had to count their swallows to make sure they had drunk enough water.

If anyone has any memories of that dreadful winter, I would be delighted to hear from them. Editor

BEFORE THEIR PARENTS' EYES

A Father's Heart-rending Story

17th June 1910 (Hull Daily Mail)

An Inquest was held at Raygill, Lothersdale, on Monday, on Clarice Lister, aged 2 years, and William Lister, aged 17 months, who were drowned in the presence of their parents during a heavy storm on Sunday afternoon. The place where the children lost their lives is just at the dip of the roadway from Laneshawbridge to Lothersdale where the quarry road is carried across on a high two-arched bridge and a series of lime kilns flank the roadside. A stream runs along side the road for some distance, and is then carried under the bridge by the culvert. A little further up the valley the stream is taken under the road for some distance. When the storm burst the stream above this latter culvert burst across the road, and again lower down the wall was washed away for many yards as the flood found the bridge-culvert too small to take the great volume of water. George Ireson Lister, grocer's assistant, 58, Emmott Lane, Laneshawbridge, Colne, father of the two children, said that on Sunday morning about 11 o'clock he left home in company with his wife and two children, and walked up to Lothersdale. The children had been suffering from whooping cough and he brought them to inhale the fumes from the lime kilns, these being of repute for the cure of whooping cough.

They reached Lothersdale about 2.30, and went down the slope towards the lime kilns. They reached these just as the rain began to fall. When the thunderstorm burst they went under one of the archways of

the kilns, where the lime is got into carts, for shelter. The rain came down heavily for a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, and then the water came all of a swirl. He had just handed his wife up on to some stones when the water came in one big volume. He put his wife and children into a cart and got in himself. The water kept on getting rapidly deeper and the cart got full of water. He thought they would be drowned where they were unless he made an effort, and he came out with the intention of swimming to some higher ground.

When he got outside of the kiln, with the baby in his arms, he found the current was too strong for him. He pushed the little fellow on to the slate of the small shed just outside the kiln, but he rolled off again. (The father was here almost overcome with emotion.) He did not see the baby roll off, but his wife did, and screamed out, and so he turned back to her and the little girl. She must have made some movement, for she had fallen out of the cart with the little girl. She, however, managed to get hold of the cart again, but by that time had lost the little girl. She found her again, and he swam away for assistance. He swam underneath the bridge, and called for help to a young man and a young woman. Some more people came – he knew not from where, and they got some ropes and let them down. He fastened the rope round him and swam back to the cart, where he found his wife and the little girl clasped to her. He dare not touch the cart, or he might have upset it, and so he went back to the slate, as he was not strong enough to bring her out. They let a rope down from above just in front of where his wife was, and he got the end and gave it to her. She clung to the rope but was so exhausted as to be unable to hold fast to it.

Witness had to swim all the time when he left the roof. At last he had to pull her on to the outhouse by the rope, and by that time she had lost the little girl. He afterwards saw a man find the little girl where they had been. He did not see the recovery of the little boy's body. There was a tremendous current while they were in the kiln and he could not swim across. A crowd collected after the water settled. There did not seem to be anybody else except himself who could swim. The water rose so high that it took his wife nearly up to the

shoulders when she was standing in the cart. She held the child up as high as she could. They were caught by the storm just like rats in a trap. They had been at Lothersdale before. When the water came in it was too deep to get away. Before the rush it had only been about a couple of inches deep. It came rushing in like a reservoir bursting.

Joseph Watson of Earby, who was in the neighbourhood when the storm occurred, and had his attention drawn to Lister swimming in the water, related the efforts made to assist Lister in the work of rescue. Everything possible was done to effect a rescue. If the woman had not been in the cart she would have been carried away. They kept up a conversation with the woman. She said the child in her arms was dead and asked if she had to let it go.

Stephen Gill, quarryman of Lothersdale, said he found the little girl in the archway near the kiln-mouth and near the cart. The child was dead. He did not see the little boy picked up. They searched for him all about as the water was subsiding. Witness did not remember such a storm for the 26 years he had been in Lothersdale. Police constable Carr Brunskill of Lothersdale said he saw the body of the little boy picked up about 6pm about 150 yards from the kiln. He was dead. Witness took the little girl on to the bank and tried artificial respiration for about an hour, until the arrival of the doctors, but could not restore animation. The little boy was not found until 2¾ hours afterwards.

The jury found that death had been the result of misadventure. They passed a resolution expressing sympathy for Mr and Mrs Lister.

N. B. A more detailed Newspaper report can be accessed on the Society's website under Newspaper Archive.

LOTHERSDALE AND THE QUARRY

Stephanie Carter

My great grandfather, Ezekiel Holden, (born 1859 Glusburn) served his time as a joiner, but was fonder of horses and carting, and went to work at Raygill quarry and lime kilns, Lothersdale.

The history of Raygill can be traced back to the Great Ice Age.

The Aldersley family had quarried and burned lime there since the late 17th century, but after the marriage of Mary Aldersley to William Spencer in 1820 the Raygill estate passed into the hands of the Spencer family and was owned by them for 150 years. The family lived at Raygill House. The lime was first burned in pit kilns, later replaced by larger running kilns which could be used continuously. In 1831 there were 3 kilns and by 1850 12 kilns in the Raygill Delf. In 1831 there were 13 lime-burners, 9 quarrymen, 4 barytes miners and a blacksmith employed at Raygill. Barium sulphate was extracted from the rocks and used in the manufacture of paper, linoleum and textiles. The wages of a quarryman were 2s 6d a day at this time. Coal was brought to Cononley station and 18 horses and carts made the journey twice a day from Raygill to collect the coal and to distribute the lime. The rich veins of barytes discovered at Raygill in 1845 made the quarry the largest producer in the country. In 1870 a new method of lime burning used one ton of coal to produce four tons of lime

In 1879, whilst quarrying, a "Pothole" was revealed at the south side. It was filled with clay, stone, earth and bones. The site became known as The Raygill Fissure. The bones discovered included Straight Tusked Elephant, Bison, Bear, Hippopotamus, Lion, Hyena and Roe-buck. Some of these were taken to the Leeds Museum, some privately dispersed and others are still to be seen in Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley.

In November 1942 the Yorkshire Post and other newspapers reported that "one of the biggest blasting operations ever made in Yorkshire had been carried out at the Lothersdale Quarry of P W Spencer Ltd. It was designed by a Leeds mining engineer from Imperial Chemical Industries who supplied the explosives. The explosion, in two blasts fired together, was prepared over three months. Two tunnels were driven into the face of the quarry, which is about 120 feet high. For the first blast, to bring down 40,000 tons of rock, six chambers and 7,000 lb of ammonal were used, and for the second, to bring down 67,000 tons of rock, 8,000 lb of ammonal were distributed in four chambers. The blasts were fired together by a detonating fuse at the rate of 17,000 feet per second. They brought down more than 100,000 tons

of rock, made up of carboniferous limestone, used for dyeing, agriculture and other lime processes."

The burning of lime continued until the 1950s, when, purchased by Tilcon, the quarry changed its production to dry stone chippings for tar macadam.

Ezekiel, or "Old Zeek" as he was known carted at Raygill, often using two horses. He lived at Rose in the Dale, Lothersdale where he and his wife Hannah had three children – Harriet, Amos (my grandfather) and Matilda, prior to Hannah's early death at the age of 33. The care of the children was a problem and the family moved to Ezekiel's mother's home in Keighley.

My grandfather Amos (born 1890 Lothersdale) started work half time at Lund's textile mill in Keighley but a year later began working as a farmer's lad at the Leys, Glusburn, for four shillings a week plus board and lodgings. Following in his father's footsteps, it was there he learned to drive a horse and cart. When he moved to Springs Farm in Lothersdale his wage went up to ten shillings a week and meals, and "if he suited" twelve shillings – he got the latter amount after a week. It was at the Springs that Amos met and in 1910 married his wife, my grandmother, Rachel Golding Kay, who was a live-in help for her sister Emily.

Whilst living at the Springs, Amos Holden began his carting days, being on the staff of P W Spencer. He would go to the quarry each day for orders where to go. He travelled hundreds of miles with his horse and cart on the limestone roads, transporting cob lime to building sites, farmsteads and railway stations over a wide area. Amos recalled that "22 carts went away from Spencers every morning. You were out in all sorts of weather. I was working at the Springs and we went after we'd done milking. Once there were 34 carts going down Albert road in Colne, one after the other, all from the quarry. We used to deliver lime. Some went by rail from Cononley station. We tipped up the carts into the wagons."

Some readers may remember Amos Holden in later life when he and his horse Prince carted coal from Earby station to Albion mill.

As to the quarry, quoting from the Raygill Fisheries website “an underground spring was hit in the 70s and the quarry slowly filled up to leave a large lagoon on part of the quarry site. In 1987 Raygill changed hands again when a local family bought it. Bernard Clement and his son discovered that the lagoon’s mineral content and limestone water was such that it was perfect for rearing fish. Raygill Fisheries was born in that year and since then three more lakes have been added to the spectacular site...Anglers come from all over the country to pit their skills against the Raygill fish...”

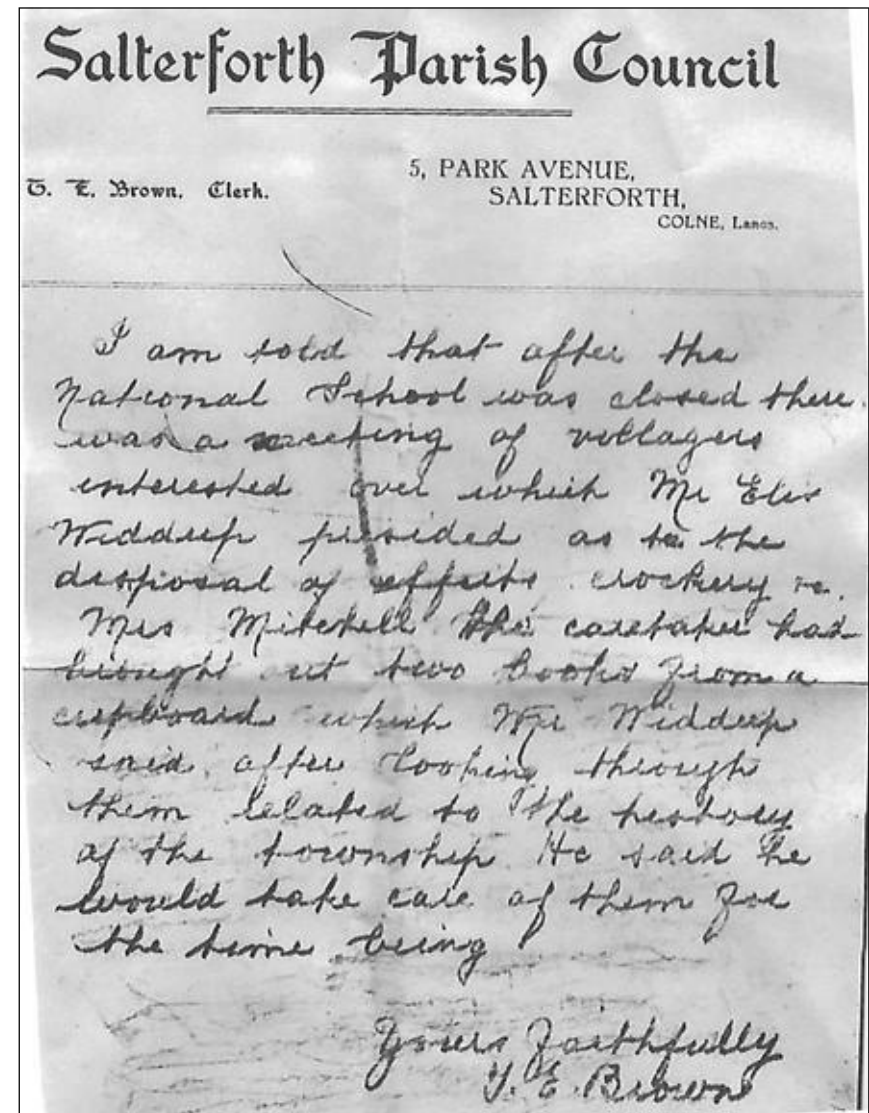


Above Lime Kiln Lothersdale. Below Ezekiel Holden Lothersdale

SALTERFORTH'S MISSING HISTORY

Ken Ranson

I wonder what Mr Widdup did with the two books.?.... "Mrs Mitchell the caretaker had brought out two books from a cupboard which Mr Widdup said after looking through them related to the history of the township. He said he would take care of them for the time being."





EARBY CHRONICLES

This is the 100th edition of the Earby Chronicles. The Editor, Chairman and Committee of Earby & District Local History Society would like to thank all who have contributed articles, photographs and information to these publications. It is your newsletter and we hope you will continue to delve into your family and area's past and send us your findings, so that we can record stories and events from Earby, Thornton, Kelbrook, Harden and Salterforth's past for future generations.

One Hundred Not Out – a special thank you from the Chairman
It would be remiss not to mention and thank our editors of the Chronicles.

Back in the formative days of the Society it was decided that we would produce a newsletter as a means of communicating with all the membership and particularly those who lived away from the area or for whatever reason couldn't attend meetings. The founding editor was Bev Parker. The current long standing editor, Stephanie Carter, has embraced new technology and has also done sterling work not only editing but also like Bev contributing a lot of content when articles were few on the ground.

THANK YOU



Above Mount Zion Deacons c 1950s. Below Mount Zion Sisterhood date unknown

THE SOCIETY

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

£10.00

UK £12.00

Overseas £15.00

If you receive Chronicles by e-mail £10 fee applicable worldwide

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PROGRAMME FOR NEXT QUARTER

Suspended due to covid restrictions

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Members details are held on computer for mailing and compilation of a membership list. The details will not be used for any other purpose without the express permission of the member. If you do not wish your details to be held on computer please inform the Treasurer immediately.

PRODUCED & PRINTED

by EARBY AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

£2-50

Free to members of the Society