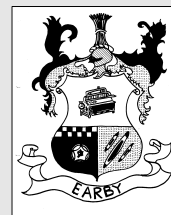


Earby Chronicles

Edition 44

SPRING 2007



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, Hague and Salterforth.

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See back page

£2.00

Members of
Society free

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting held on 20th February Chairman Bob Abel reported on the on-going healthy state of our Society as membership continues to grow.

The accounts for 2006 were presented first, showing a slight income over expenditure deficit of £203, but despite this there is a healthy balance in our building society account. The biggest expenditure was £500 on stationery and printing supplies mainly for publishing and distribution of Chronicles. The largest income, £365, from Society book sales.

There being no other nominations, the present committee was unanimously re-elected en mass.

Two proposals were put to the AGM and accepted, as follows:-

- 1) The committee, after a financial review during the third quarter of 2007, was empowered to increase subscriptions if they felt it was absolutely necessary.
- 2) The committee was asked to review the Society's aims and mission statement and update them if thought necessary.

The Chairman reported that the highlight of 2006 was the official celebration, in June, of the restoration of the Thornton St. Mary's Well, a project which the Society will complete this year. Following the AGM a video of that event with the school children giving their displays was watched by members.

Future projects are the production of a computerised database for cataloguing the Society archives, the possibility of acquiring a digital projector and colour laser printing facilities and redesigning of the web site.

Finally the Chairman thanked all those who had helped in the running of the society for another successful year.

recent talks & features

- | | | |
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| Page 8 | Hearth Passage House at Salterforth | by Margaret Brown |
| Page 13 | York and the Gentry - The York Season and the Country House | |

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was given by Squire Firth.

DESIRABLE 2 UNIT, DIRECT ENTRY, END STACK HOUSE . . .

If this sounds to you a little like an estate agents sales pitch you are not far off although our speaker was setting out the styles of older houses not trying to sell them. An unusual title but by the end of the talk at the meeting on 16th January 2007 we understood clearly it's meaning, and found it a most fitting one.

Don McLellan is a buildings conservation technical adviser for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. He is also a recorder and leading figure in the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group (YVBSG). Set up in 1973, because it had been noted, with much concern, that many traditional buildings were being demolished or drastically changed, the YVBSG began to identify the buildings at risk and to record them. The group has, since its beginnings, recorded some 1,710 buildings in various states of repair and they have an important archive of local vernacular architecture.

Traditional or vernacular (the proper term) buildings are an interest, indeed a passion for Don McLellan and he was keen to show why. He introduced to our audience three types or classes of building for most northern houses, those not built for the well to do gentry of the past, but the homes of ordinary folk. These classes were: -

1. Hearth passage entry
2. Lobby entry
3. Direct entry

Don explained how these evolved, between the 16th and 20th centuries, into the houses we have today. We were first shown simple plans of the original styles followed by photographs and plans of many examples from the Yorkshire Dales and the area of its southern boundary. Don then explained, with drawings, how the floor plans developed over the years.

The development of the different plan forms was gradual and usually based on the position in the house of the hearth and its associated chimneystack. For example a stack positioned centrally might well suggest that the room on one side was originally for habitation (with its hearth) and the other where the animals were housed, only later being brought into use for domestic purposes. The earliest known example of a hearth passage house is in Birkdale, but many later examples can be found if you know what to look for. An article by Margaret Brown on page 8 reveals a very local example in Salterforth, another might be Highgate farmhouse above Earby on which a more detailed survey will be conducted and reported in Chronicles later this year.

Lobby entry houses tended to be higher status houses, but that plan style went out of fashion by the end of the 18th century, a useful way of dating a property. Direct entry houses were the beginning of the semi-detached homes so popular today, but is a

common design with no apparent date of origin.

These are many old properties in West Craven and the Yorkshire Vernacular Building Study Group has very little data from this area, so if you are interested in house history and want to get involved in studying the vernacular buildings locally do get in contact with Chairman Bob Abel – for we see another project coming on!



The stone recovered from the garden now forms an unusual garden feature.

MYSTERY STONE FOUND IN EARBY

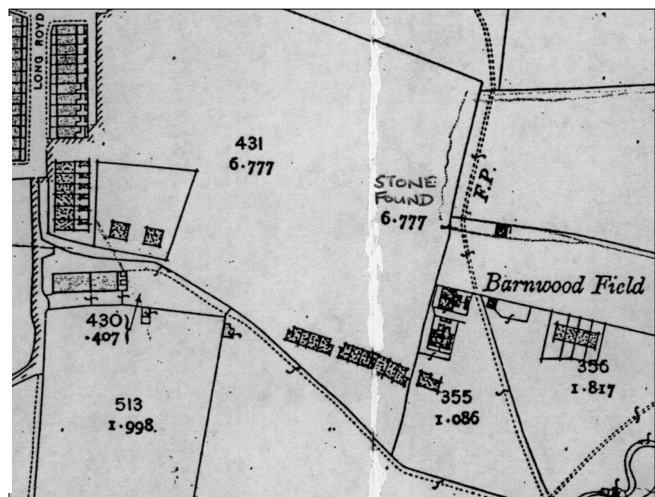
Towards the end of last year a query came to the Society via the website asking for information about a carved stone with clearly incised lettering - HD 1850 - that had been unearthed from a garden in Bawhead Road, Earby (see photograph left).

We have looked at the Ordnance Survey first edition map at 6 inches to the mile and the subsequent OS County Series map at 25 inch to the mile for the area but there is nothing to indicate a building of any description on that particular site, nor anything else to lead us to its identity.

It was first thought that the date and initials might possibly have had connections with

roads, or a particular "Highway District", but it was found that the date doesn't coincide with any significant period in highway history.

Alternatively, it may be that H.D. was an individual, who for some reason was being commemorated in 1850; or it may have come from a dismantled church or chapel? A search of the 1851 census failed to reveal any one with the initials H D



County Series Ordnance Survey Map 1910 - the area where the stone was found has been added

The owner and the Society would be very interested to hear from anyone who

might be able to throw some light on who or what was H.D. in 1850 and if you can help please do contact the Chairman or the Editor.

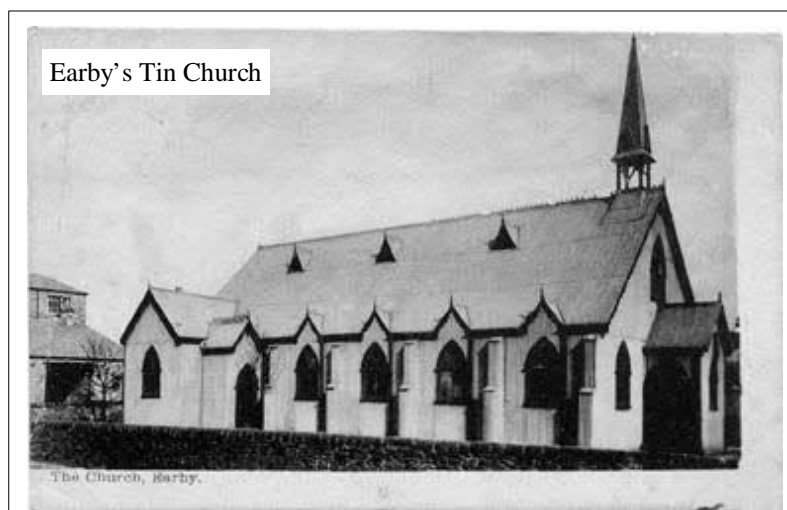
EARBY'S FLAT PACK CHURCH

by Bob Abel

We tend to think of flat pack items and prefabricated buildings as being typically twentieth century with the self-assembly furniture from Ikea or the prefab houses of the late 1940s and the 1950s.

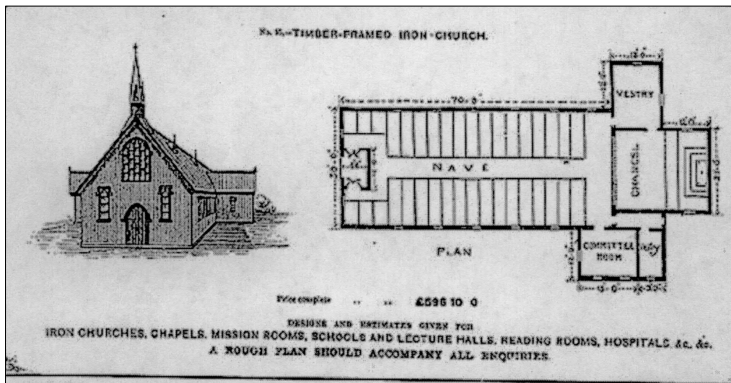
However, we must think again. During the late 18th century, iron works in the Black Country were starting to make iron sheets by rolling out iron bars. As the Industrial Revolution progressed there was an ever-increasing demand for larger industrial buildings for which slates were not suitable due to their weight. The iron sheet was found to be an ideal solution and it was quickly discovered that if the iron sheets were corrugated the strength was considerably increased. It was also realised that the iron sheets could be used for walls and a new industry was born. As the population and the size of towns increased both at home and abroad there was an increasing demand for building materials. In the Victorian Age of Iron, corrugated iron sheets could be produced accurately and cheaply. The sheets were light and strong and could be cut into convenient sizes and when coated with zinc in the galvanising process they were rendered corrosion resistant.

During the second half of the 19th century, due to the influx of textile workers, the population of the parish of Thornton-in-Craven, particularly in Earby, was increasing rapidly. It seemed as though the spiritual needs of this growing population were being catered for by the non-conformist element of the church. The Wesleyan Church at Riley Street had been built as well as the new Mount Zion Baptist Church. The Earby Anglican parishioners had to go all the way to St. Mary's at Thornton-in-Craven or possibly to the church at Kelbrook.



It was decided to do some thing about this, and a new Anglican church for Earby was proposed. A corrugated iron structure was decided upon as this would be relatively cheap and quick to erect. The sections were delivered ready to assemble

By now, catalogues of building designs were available and it was possible



to order a building to a design but to your own dimensions and with your own embellishments. These types of building were becoming quite common throughout the country.

David Rowell and Co. of London were one company producing a variety of buildings and the example shown is from their catalogue and in principal looks very similar to Earby's Iron Clad Church. All that was needed was a brick foundation to support the floor timbers and wall joists. The frame of the building was timber to which the sheets of iron cladding were fixed with nails. As with the Earby example they were usually clad inside with pitch pine. An unclad building would be very cold in wintertime.

In 1887, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, a plot of land was purchased on School Lane where the Tin Tabernacle was built and paid for in one year. The exterior was of corrugated iron and the interior of polished pitch pine and had a capacity for 270 worshippers. The curate the Rev J. Gaskell dispensed with the services of an architect and planned and carried out the work himself.

The dedication service was on 12th May 1888 with the Bishop of Penrith being the guest preacher. The Rev. Morris remarked with gratitude and pleasure on the presence of so many of his non-conformist parishioners but it was also noted in the vestry minutes that "there had been a noticeable decrease in the collections at Thornton since Earby Church opened".



It is generally accepted that when Earby's All Saints Church was built in 1909 and the tin church became redundant, the tin tabernacle went to Broughton Road, Skipton and was used for the Methodist chapel there, later becoming Broughton Road Social Centre. This was an advantage of this type of building, it was relatively easy to move.

However, comparing the picture of the original building with that now on Broughton Road Skipton (left) the structure has been considerably altered.

DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Ghyll Golf Club 1907-2007 Centenary publication

A history of Ghyll Golf Club, by Ken Wilkinson, and kindly donated by member Roy Spragg, is a lively publication containing a snapshot of the club in its 100th year. It also includes old and recent photographs and many anecdotes to amuse, as well as a factual historical account of the story of the club from its formation in Earby to the present day.

It also explodes the myth that the clubhouse was once located in a field beyond the radio mast almost half way to Earby.

TO SOCIETY FUNDS

Evelyn Austin was a member of the Society for a few months only but sadly, before we could really get to know her, she died in December 2006. A lovely lady, Evelyn was not a local woman, but came to live at Thornton Hill Residential Home for the support it gives and to be near her family living in Kelbrook. Evelyn had an academic background in history having gained a degree in that subject. However, although maintaining a life long interest, she did not follow a career in history. After taking some time to settle in at Thornton and despite being a wheelchair user, she made an effort to attend our meetings and was looking forward to taking an active part in the society proceedings. Evelyn's family have made a donation to the Society funds in her memory – for which we are most grateful - thank you.

ROMAN ROAD – PART 2

By Trevor Tattersall

Trevor's personal study of the road and possible connection with St. Mary's church well continues:

The actual course of the road is not easy to trace; some parts are overlaid by later roads or have been diverted to avoid serious gradients and some parts remain conjectural. We can, however, be reasonably certain of two points that have been verified by excavation. To the east where our road crosses the old Gisburn track near Bonnie Blacks Farm (SD 845467), and outside the Roman fort at Elslack (SD 925495). The road at Elslack was about 3 metres wide and can be dated by the find of a bronze coin of Domitian (AD 81-96) – see Yorkshire Archaeological Journal Vol. XXI 1911 for the excavation report.

From Elslack the road was destroyed by the construction of the railway but emerges at West Field Laithe and can be easily followed in a south-westerly direction towards Thornton under a modern-day footpath, across Thornton Beck and up the hill into the village. There is no apparent sign of the road through the village but it is likely that it passed diagonally under the A56, up the hill, and through the rectory grounds, then down the slope towards the Church. It is on record that the Almshouses were built on the then road, which was diverted in front of them. There are traces of a terrace at either end of the Almshouses which might well represent the course of our road which then passed down through the churchyard, probably quite close to the covered well.

From here to Barnoldswick the road is alleged to follow the course of the modern B6252 and along Greenberfield Lane, but I am not aware of any evidence to support this; indeed the low lying nature of this route and recent flooding problems might appear to be a contra-indication. Viewed from the Southfield area of the West Marton road an alternative route appears higher up the hillside on a more typical Roman line and appearing on the map as a footpath running from the old road below the church, across the hillside, past Ghyll Church and along Ghyll Lane towards Barnoldswick. Readers with extremely long memories may remember that before the bend below Thornton Church was realigned it was much sharper and that where the footpath from Ghyll Church now crosses a stile and descends through a small plantation, it used to be a narrow lane leading up onto the hillside. This route was a direct line with the conjectural route through the village.

Following the footpath from Thornton towards Ghyll Church shows no trace of the road apart from faint indications of a possible terrace. However, it is not uncommon for any traces to be obliterated by repeated ploughing over centuries.

From the Barnoldswick end Ghyll Lane is typical of a country lane built over an original Roman road and is an obvious means of reaching a very early church from its associated settlement. The walled track passes the church, crosses a small stream over a clapper bridge with steep but reasonably negotiable slopes and opens on to the golf course where there are traces of banks leading towards Thornton.

However, this route would be unsuitable for the carriage of goods due to the gradients common on Roman roads and had been diverted along the base of the hill and by 1773 (Jeffrey's Atlas) carries on along Greenberfield and Brogden Lanes to Rimmington. Just before crossing the canal at Greenberfield a side road led off to Coates and into the village of Barnoldswick.

Opposite Ghyll Works (Rolls Royce) a farmhouse dominates the slope. The house has a curious façade, having newer windows inserted in an obviously older wall. However, from the church, Ghyll Hall Farm shows its originals 16/17th century frontage facing Ghyll Lane – an obvious indication of the route of the road at that time.

In the other direction the Roman road was conjectured to run from Elslack fort past Low

Ground Farm and roughly along the line of the former railway to the River Aire, and on to Skipton. However, since Skipton may not have existed at this period and the road would have to cross the bed of a glacial lake which even today is notorious for severe flooding in wet weather, I believe this road ran to the river above Carleton and was used for supplies for the fort brought up the river from Castleford. I believe the main road ran a little to the north behind Broughton Hall to follow the modern A59 over the Inghey bridge and across to Thorlby to join another Roman road heading towards Settle. This would be more in agreement with a map of 1720 by Warburton, which describes our road as "This Roman Way goes to York and for the most part is useable being paved with stone throughout". Unfortunately the road is shown as a series of straight lines and is representational rather than accurate.

Having established the likely route and purpose of our Roman road we can focus on its probable relationship with the Church and Well of St Mary's Thornton.

The obvious clue to the exact course of the road is the presence of the road and its attendant banks and ditches on the surface but these are normally only found in open country and then the road can be up to half a metre below the surface. In urban locations any stone remains of any consequence have usually been reused in later building works so their absence is not surprising and other clues must be sought, such as small quarries from which the original stone was obtained. On the 1896 6 inch OS map such a quarry is shown just below the start of the track onto the hill leading towards Ghyll Church. A line between the almshouses and this track runs either under or alongside our Church St Mary's which is built on a considerable slope with the tower at the downhill end and obviously required substantial foundations. It would be entirely logical to use the road materials by excavating stone from the uphill end of the site and moving them to the lower (tower) end. On this basis the well would be just to the side of the road and may well be associated with it.

From the evidence we appear to have made a reasonable case connecting our well with the probably course of our Roman road but ought we not to extend the picture slightly? It seems we have three ancient churches along the local stretch of this road covering less than 5 kilometres, each church removed from the settlement it serves, and each connected with a source of water. Is it coincidence, is there a logical explanation, or are we missing something? Don't forget another old well behind a door down the old road in Thornton.

Further, Ghyll Church, more properly called St Mary-le Gill, is recorded as the second church foundation in Barnoldswick, the first is supposed to have been at a location known as Monkroyd where there is yet another well – St. Mary's Well. Could there be a connection?

HEARTH PASSAGE HOUSE AT SALTERFORTH

By Margaret Brown

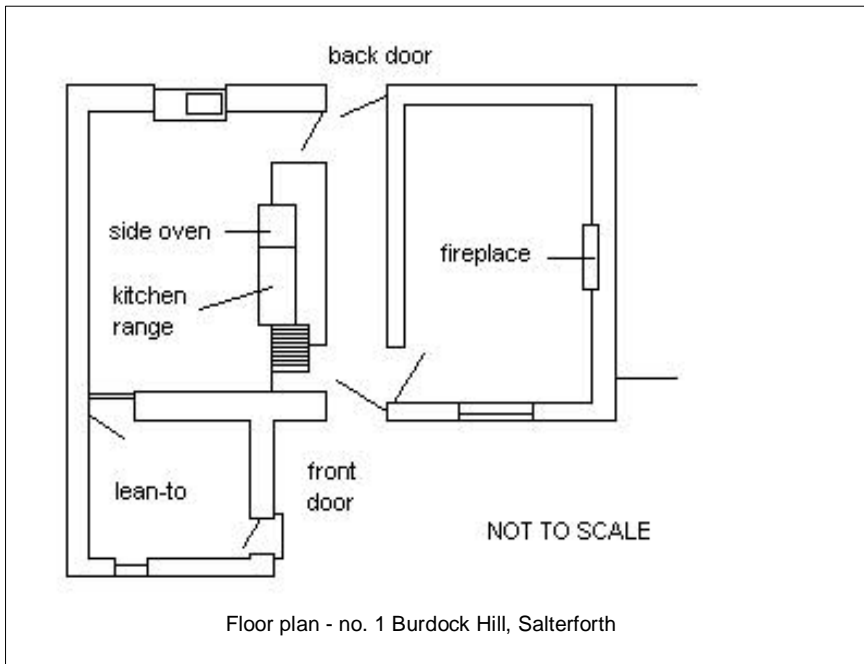


1 Burdock Hill, Salterforth

The talk given by Don McLellan from the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group in January 2007, made me think about a cottage that I knew very well as a child in the 1960s. It was No. 1 Burdock Hill, Salterforth, on the lane past the Anchor Inn, just before the "Drag". It was lived in by an elderly couple called Mr. & Mrs. Berry and although I knew that

this was a very old cottage, I had not realised its significance until Don's talk.

The cottage has all the attributes of a hearth passage house. It has a straight passage from the front to the back door and a hearth built into the passage wall in the kitchen, which is entered by a door next to the back door. The original stairs were very steep and narrow and built into the hearth wall. I cannot remember what the upstairs was like, as I never ventured there. The front parlour was always cold and damp as I remember, and seldom used at that time.



I have happy memories of this cottage. One in particular was that Mrs. Berry had a black & white TV. My brother sister and I were allowed to go around to her house once a week to watch the "White Heather Club". It wasn't so much the programme that we enjoyed but any opportunity to watch TV as we did not have one at home at that time. Mr. Berry also had many

stories to tell of the nearby canal, these may hopefully make up another article for a future edition of Chronicles.

I believe that since the time of the Berry's other people have lived there and have altered the house extensively.

This house is the oldest property on the (Salterforth) hill and was probably the original farmhouse, it was certainly thatched and has no constructed foundations. The lean-to store room was a later addition and was once a shop.

While these days there seems not to be enough trade for a shop, in the 19th and 20th century this was a busy industrial area. The quarries up the hill supplied stone that was carried on the canal to many major cities and there was a boat repair yard by the canal – a possible further area for more research?

THE STORY OF REV. HENRY RICHARDSON AND THORNTON

All's Well At St Mary's Project Update

By the time this edition of Chronicles is published the plans for finishing the surfacing to the pathway down to St. Mary's Well should be finalised. The next and final stage of this *Local Heritage Initiative* project will be publication of the history of the site and its benefactor Reverend Henry Richardson and his influence locally. The book is set to be published in soft back format by June, ready for the annual Sitooterie (*sitting out places*) and open gardens event held in Thornton in Craven village over the weekend of the 16th and 17th of June. It will be for sale at a very reasonable price thanks to the funding from the Local Heritage Initiative, now managed by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is planned for a number of hardback copies to be available. It will be a valuable resource for local libraries, schools at Thornton, Earby and Coates, Barnoldswick and our Earby & District Local History Society as well as Barnoldswick History Society. If you would like to purchase a hardback version you should contact Secretary Margaret Brown as soon as possible so that numbers can be compiled.

We feel sure that you will be amazed at the depth of research undertaken by Derek Clabburn and his hard working team and we expect this to be a major mile stone in the Society's history.

In association with the publishing of the book the Society will be making audio cassette tapes for people who find reading difficult. It will be distributed on a request basis. This will be undertaken in collaboration with 'Craven Cassettes' a Skipton based charity that provides audio tapes both of the Craven Herald Newspaper (weekly) and the Dalesman (monthly) for local people with sight impairment. More about the distribution of our tapes will be provided in the next edition of Chronicles.

The commemorative inscription that has been installed on the low wall surrounding the refurbished well was funded by a special grant from the Nationwide Building Society separately from the overall LHI project. The higher than planned specification and consequential increase in cost to a figure in excess of the grant has been topped up by a donation from a special fund set up by St. Mary's Church and wonderfully supported by many local people. An interpretative panel and list of supporters will be installed at the Church during the coming months.

The Local Heritage Initiative is a national grant scheme that helps groups to investigate, explain and care for their landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) provides the grant but the scheme is a partnership, administered by the Countryside Agency with additional funding from Nationwide Building Society. Do visit the web site to find out more of the marvellous work undertaken throughout the country under that scheme - www.lhi.org.uk

Anyone wishing to get involved in the research should contact the project Chairman Bev Parker 01282 843226, or The Editor via the web site www.earby.org

EARBY ROADS AND BUILDINGS BYLAWS

A useful aid for house historians

Member, Jeffrey Metcalfe of Barrowford, formerly of Earby, has recently donated to the Society a most interesting copy of some Bylaws of Earby Urban District Council covering new streets and buildings. Published shortly after the Earby UDC was created in 1909, it comprehensively establishes the standards for new buildings to be constructed in the area extending from purlins to privies!

The Bylaws were made on 17th September 1912 to replace byelaws made on 23rd December 1899 and confirmed on 12th February 1900 by Skipton Rural District Council. The Local Government Board had approved these new bylaws on 2nd December 1912. They may be of particular interest to anyone living in the areas bounded: -

- (a). On the North by Applegarth Street, and a new street adjoining Brook Shed, on the west by William and Hartley Streets, on the south by a contour line and the east by a continuation of Mostyn Avenue;
 - (b). On the north by School Lane, on the west and south by the 'new-cut' and the east by Victoria Road;
 - (c). On the north by Victoria Mill, on the west by the 'new-cut', on the east by Back Green End Avenue and the south by New Road; and
 - (d). On the north, east and south by Earby Beck and the west by Old Lane
-

The levels had to be brought up to a set height above ordnance datum. (a) 438 feet, (b) 433 feet, (c) 435 feet and (d) 428 feet, and every part of the building process seem to be covered even down to the thickness of walls.

Widths applied to new streets meant the whole space had to be set out as a public way, exclusive of steps or projections, and made at the easiest practical gradient. Roads 100 yards or more in length were designated as carriage roads and as such had to be a minimum of 36 feet wide. All carriage roads had to be convex or fall from the centre or crown to the channel at the side. Roads less than 100 yards long for access to buildings, but not to be carriage roads had to be 24 feet wide.

If readers want to know more of the specification of their own house or street, if built post 1912 and in the areas defined, they should contact our Archivist Margaret Greenwood to see this interesting record.

YORK AND THE GENTRY:

THE YORK SEASON AND THE COUNTRY HOUSE

Reproduced with the permission of Peter Brears*

In the three hundred years between the mid-seventeenth and mid-nineteenth centuries, York was the social centre of northern England, offering every luxury for the visiting nobility and gentry, in addition to providing a ready source of fine foods for consumption both within the city, and back at their country houses.

Those who chose not to purchase or build their own York town-house, could take the alternative course of renting a suitable house or apartment for the required season. This course of action, involving the regular removal of entire families between their major houses in the country and their accommodation in the city, presented considerable logistical problems for the wives of the gentry who were responsible for its organisation. This is clearly illustrated in the notes kept by Lady Mary Lister, wife of Sir William Lister of Thornton in Craven. Every October she appears to have packed up all the equipment she would require for cooking and entertaining her family and guests during her yearly sojourn in the city, sending it off in a horse-drawn baggage-train along the rough roads down to Skipton, then probably continuing by way of Ilkley, Otley and Tadcaster to York, perhaps taking two days over this fifty-mile journey.

In order to ensure that all the goods she left behind were in safe-keeping, she made 'A noat of powder at Thornton deliver'd to Isabell Clarke ye 14th of October, 1625', 'A note of wood Vessel Lent in Exley...and thorenton', and similarly, on 18 October 1627, a note of the linen in Dorothy Wilcock's charge 'at my goeing to Yorke', these ladies presumably being the servants who were to be entrusted with these items until her return some months later. On 24 October 1625, she completed her 'Noate of the Yorcke trunke' which contained all the

linen she would be taking with her.

As for the culinary items, she made a complete list of everything that was in her kitchen at the Manor House at Thornton on 21 October, 1626, and everything in her milk-house just a week later. From these, she appears to have selected those items which she would need in York, these appearing in the list of the contents of her 'things in the kitchen: at Yorke' made on 28 July.

Clearly her York kitchen was not going to operate at the same scale as her one at Thornton, but even so, it was going to carry out virtually every cooking operation. She had brought all the spice and seasoning containers necessary for producing good quality food for her family and guests, and the mortar and pestle and grater required to process them. Presumably intending to buy her meat either alive, on the hoof, or in large pieces from the butchers, she had taken her striking and flensing knives to kill and skin [flense] and joint it ready for either roasting on the spits, carefully draining the contents of her dripping pan into her kitchen-fee pot, or boiling it in a brass beef-pot hung by a pot-crook from a gallow-balk fixed within the chimney, the beef-fork being used to lift it out onto one of the wooden doublers, or serving-dishes. Alternatively the meat could be cooked over the fire on the broiling-iron, while other foods could be cooked in the small selection of porridge pot, great and little pans and posnets. The tripe pot shows that she intended to soak and boil her own tripe, rather than buy it in. The four pie plates and the pie peels show that she was going to bake her own pies, although many people preferred to send these out to one of the bakers' shops.

In 1677 Thomas Baskerville had noted that the local apples were 'quadlings', which could be cooked while still unripe, which was from August onwards, Lady Lister's 'appelle credell' probably being used to store them for pie-making throughout the winter months. Apple pie was certainly a celebrated local delicacy, Dr William King composing a poem describing both its supposed history and its method of making, in 1713. Their thin dough was made of flour, eggs and butter, while their ingredients were pippins, with quinces added for relish, brown sugar, cloves, candied peel, and orange-flower water. When prepared, they were sent to the bakehouse, but the wife was strongly advised:

To chuse your Baker, think and think again,
(you'll scarce one honest Baker find in ten)
Aduſt and bruis'd I've often ſeen a Pye,
In rich Diſguiſe and coſtly ruin lie.

The actual delivery of the pie to the baker's could be problematical too, especially when the domestic staff was too proud to be seen performing this menial task. Once, when Margaret Wharton, who lived at 35-7 Micklegate up to her death in 1791, had made a pie, her footman and coachman both demurred to carry to the bakehouse. In consequence, she ordered them to bring her coach round. She was then driven to the pastry-cook's with the pie, and sent her carriage back to fetch it when baked. She then complimented her servants on having 'kept their places'.

Although no specific equipment is listed, it is also probable that Lady Mary Lister would be

pickling the oysters which were arriving in York at this season. Baskerville had reported in 1677 that here 'oysters are in their season dear, half a crown a hundred, and are brought hither in ships from Scotland, for they had none in the sea near the mouth of the Humber till of late, as a man in Hull told me, for a Scottish ship laden with oysters being there cast away, this now begins to breed there'. Certainly many of the recipe books of the Yorkshire gentry include instructions for pickling oysters, one from the Saviles of Methley cooking them in white wine before sealing them down in small barrels. Alternatively they could be bought ready-pickled, the Reresbys paying 4s 3d 'For a Barril of Oysters & bringing' to their country house at Thrybergh in 1666.

One of the other items which Lady Lister carried with her to York was her recipe book, so that she could make her capon with herbs, her sauce for roasted mutton, and various other dishes served at her dinner-parties. After washing their hands using Sir William's silver basin, ewer and pots, her guests would sit around her linen-covered table, with its silver cups and covers, salts, bowls, sugar box and spoons, its pewter dishes and saucers, there enjoying the best of her hospitality. Along with numerous other county ladies who spent seasons in York, she used her recipe book to note down the culinary and medical recipes obtained from her compatriots, attributing them to Lady Fairfax, Lady Hearte, Sir Matthew Lister's Lady, or to Dr Lister, President of the College of Physicians, Physician in Ordinary to both Anne of Denmark, and to Charles I, who knighted him in 1636. One of her recipes 'A Medicine for...hurt of a hand Gunne' probably came in useful during the Civil War, for in July 1643 her house at Thornton in Craven was attacked, and shortly afterwards burnt down, never to be rebuilt again.

** Peter Brears worked for museums in Hampshire, Halifax and Wakefield before directing York Castle Museum (1974-1979) and Leeds City Museums (1979-1994). He is now a freelance historic house consultant working on the restoration and interpretation schemes for historic Royal Palaces, the National Trust, English Heritage etc. He has many books on English food history to his name.*



Water Street 1966

LOCAL FLOODS:

An appeal from THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Do you have any photographs or other records of floods which

have occurred in Earby and the surrounding district in the past?

As you may have read in the local press, the Environment Agency has recently set up an electronic monitoring system of streams flowing through Earby and liaises with a local volunteer group of flood wardens, in order to give residents as much warning as possible when there is a risk of flooding. The Agency is also trying to gather information about previous floods in Earby and district in order to compile a background history of such events in the area.

If you have any photographs of previous floods, from which copies can be made, or memories of such occasions, the Society is collecting such information on behalf of the Environment Agency and would appreciate any help you are able to give.

Please contact Margaret Greenwood (Tel. No. 01282-843394) if you are able to help in any way.

SOCIETY ARCHIVES PROJECT

The amount of material in the Society archives is growing year on year and despite the sterling work by our archivist Margaret Greenwood and our photograph archivist Margaret Brown the collection is becoming unwieldy. A new system of cataloguing is required.

A project team under the leadership of Margaret Greenwood has been set up to implement this. The team envisages employing a system based on a computerised database which will be fully searchable and indicate the contents of any particular archive .

As there appears to be no specialist expertise available within the membership, the team has entered into discussions with a specialist in archive databases. The project will also require the purchase of a laptop computer and the relevant software.

Once the database has been set up there will be a lot of work required to input the data and the team will be looking for volunteers to help.

Once completed, the database will make the archives more accessible for members doing research for themselves or others.

In the meantime, grant funding is being sought to go towards the cost of the specialist consultant fees and for the purchase of the required computer and software.

Watch this space.

FAMILY HISTORY QUESTS

Below are the latest family history queries submitted via the Society web site. If you can help with any of these please contact Bob Abel

Whiteoak, William Henry

Date of birth c 1890, last known address Hothfield Street, Silsden. He married Edith Hannah Pullen in 1915. Daughter Alma born 1915 in Silsden.

Watson, Joseph

Date of birth 1795 in Earby, last known address Byreden Lane, Burnley.

Rushton, Alfred

Date of birth c 1872 at Thornton-in-Craven. Last known address 2/4 Clarence Avenue. Handsworth, Birmingham. Mother's name Hannah Rushton, father's name Alfred? Berry, Brother James Berry JP, Skipton. A relative, Hilda, lived at 16 Brook Street until the 1970's

Wilkinson, Ryecroft

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

Tuesday 17 April 2007
Dr. Ian Dewhirst MBE "Victorian and Edwardian Leisure"

Tuesday 15 May 2007
Cliff Astin "What's Inn a Name?" Pub names and the history they reveal

Saturday. 23 June 2007
Day out to Nostell Priory, near Wakefield [you need to book your place early]

Saturday 14 July 2007
Evening Trip - Strawberries and Wine on a trip on the Embsay to Bolton Abbey Steam Railway [book your place early]

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Local History
Society.**

DATA PROTECTION ACT

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

THE SOCIETY

Meets at the Community Centre, New Road, EARBY on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. (except for outside visits).

**ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
£5.00
UK £7.00
Overseas £11.00**

Shuttieworth. Father

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

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget this is your newsletter. We're always keen to hear from members, if only to put them in touch with relatives and friends from the past. Do 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

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