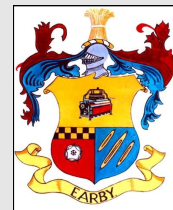


Earby Chronicles

Edition 55

Winter 2009



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

NEW ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE AUTUMN FAIR

This ever popular event took place on the 3rd October. It was officially opened by Earby's May Queen, Rebecca Tomlinson, with her retinue in attendance, and as usual drew large numbers of Earby townfolk of all ages. Many stalls provided a range of games, tombolas and goods for sale to raise money for individual groups and charities as well as supporting the Community Centre itself.



Earby Folk enjoying the event

A pet show brought in a number of canine and other competitors, including a very large snail! The extensive raffle of some fascinating and quite valuable prizes which had been donated by local businesses and Centre user groups was very well supported. A circus themed display by pupils of Springfield School completed the day.

The History Society presented an exhibition of images of All Saints Church and had a gift stall to raise funds for the Society. Also on sale were Society publications, including the latest book on the centenary of All Saints Church, Earby – see below a report on the Church's events.

recent talks & features

- | | |
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£2.00

Members of
Society free

EARBY FIRE STATION - 25TH ANNIVERSARY

A community open day was held at Earby Fire Station on Saturday 5th September and the Society was, amongst other local organisations, invited to take part. The event was to mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the new fire station situated behind Jagoe Mews and despite the dismal weather that day it was very well supported by visitors.



The Society's Display with Bob Ayrton (in his NFS uniform and his stand in the foreground

The fire service had on display an array of modern fire fighting and rescue equipment and gave demonstrations of rescue techniques including utilising their tower to replicate a cliff face rescue. Although quite safe it was a little hair raising to watch! There was also a vintage Coventry Climax trailer pump on display. Children were delighted to be able to get 'up close and personal' with a fire engine. There were also some fairground stalls to enjoy. The Earby brigade was also raising funds for their own fire brigade charities and provided refreshments with a burger and hot dog barbeque and a tea and coffee stall.



Peter Dawson and his display of war time fire fighting

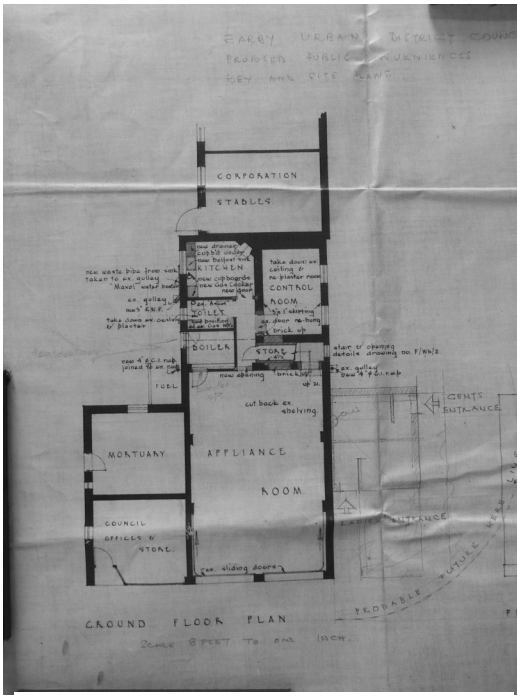
The Society put on an exhibition of the history of Earby fire brigade from 1906 to 1941 when, as a war time contingency, the fire brigades were nationalised in the form of the National Fire Service (NFS). Two Society members put on additional displays. Bob Ayrton (above) put on show of models of fire engines he had hand crafted by himself together with memorabilia of his service in the NFS. Peter Dawson (left -in his war time fire guard uniform) concentrated on war time fire fighting.

The research work undertaken for the exhibition was done at both Barnoldswick Library and Lancashire County Record Office and it is the intention to continue the investigations to bring the story right up to the present day. The display aroused much interest and contact was made with several ex firemen who have helped with the research.

Many records, photographs and plans have been collected as exemplified by the drawings for the building of the upper storey of the Victoria Road fire station in the early 1950s. (above what is

n o w
t h e
Coun-
Shop).

cil



Courtesy of Lancashire Record Office



Courtesy of Lancashire Record Office

We need to talk to more people with knowledge of the service in past times. If you can help with this research in any way either with memories, photographs or artefacts please contact the editor or Bob Abel.



Ken Hartley gathering information from visitors

The brigade themselves have a number of photographs at the fire station which they kindly allowed the society to copy for the photograph archive.

MEMORIES OF MY TIME SPENT IN EARBY 1941 – 1945

During World War II my Dad, Percy Wright, as Senior Production Superintendent with Rover Company based in Tyseley, Birmingham, was re-located from Birmingham to Earby, along with many other Rover employees, to help with war effort. He worked at the Grove Mill until the war finished in 1945. It was several years later that I learned that Dad and the workforce were engaged in the production of parts for Radial Engines for Bristol Aircraft.

My brother Frank, an apprentice with Rover, was sent up to work at the Sough Mill ahead of us and lodged with a Mr. & Mrs. Marshall.

Mom, Dorothy, Dad and myself, John, moved from Birmingham shortly afterwards, leaving behind my married sister. Until the Ranch was built and we moved into 1 Warwick Drive, we stayed with another family, whose name I cannot remember.

I attended Alder Hill School, walking along Salterforth Road, Colne Road, Victoria Road, Water Street into Cemetery Road. During my walk to school I noticed E.W. Smith's Hardware Shop in Victoria Road and bought, with my pocket money, a fret saw, which I still use some 67 years on. In those days the Library in Water Street was the Rover Club where many activities took place.

Dad used to have his lunch most days when at the mill at The Punch Bowl, but as a family if we had an evening out we used to go to The Station Hotel on Colne Road. We bought our chips from Salterforth Road chippy.

Things that I remember most are :

- Going on the train from Earby to Barlick to the cinema with a tanner (5p) in my pocket for cinema ticket, train journey and some chips,
- Italian prisoners working on the railway,
- Walking over the moors with my brother and his friend,
- Sledging in short pants and when I stood up my trouser legs were packed with snow,
- The snowfall which came up to the roof of the pre-fab and we couldn't open the front door,
- Local lad Neville Duxbury and his mates who were always fighting us, but haven't managed to come up with any other names,
- Kids walking along the parapet of the viaduct, but can't remember where this was,
- The day I set the kitchen of the pre-fab on fire. I poured a bottle of Ronson Lighter fuel on water in a bowl standing in the sink and set light to it to see if petrol would burn on water. (I can assure you it does). I threw the bowl in the front garden and set the garden on fire as well as the kitchen - another experiment gone wrong! I can't remember my punishment, but my Mom was extremely house-proud, so I wouldn't have got away with it,
- Parkin, this was a great favourite of mine and my wife despairs whenever we come up to the area as I'm still trying to find some that matches up to the parkin of my youth.

The last thing I remember before we headed back to Birmingham was the party held in the Club House, on The Ranch, to celebrate the end of the war. I was then almost 13.

Dad continued to work at The Rover Company, in Tyseley, for a further 30 years, retiring in 1965 after over 48 years with the Company.

John Graham Wright

(then with red hair now, alas, white!)

Editor's Note:

John and his wife Doreen were visiting the Mines Museum in Earby and during conversation with Peter Dawson it emerged that John's father had worked at Grove Mill during the war. Peter mentioned that he thought we had, in the Society archives, a picture of the Rover Company staff at Grove Mill taken at the close of the war.. This proved to be the case and a copy was sent to John who recognised a few faces including his

father, Percy Wright.

John and Doreen say that the photo means a lot to them and triggered John's trip down memory lane.

LIVING WITH PENDLE WITCHES



After the summer break our members and friends were welcomed back to the September meeting by an entertaining talk by Maureen Stopforth. Maureen has been proprietor of the "Witches Galore" shop in Newchurch, Pendle for almost 30 years.

From humble beginnings as a weaver's cottage, built around the 1790s as back-to-back cottages (two into one), the shop has attracted great interest over the years with a large proportion of overseas visitors, many of whom tell of being in awe of the beauty of the area and intrigued by the Pendle witches' stories.

The shop began in the 1940s as a grocers shop, the top shop of two in the hamlet. By the 1950s a growing interest in the Pendle Witches began, probably encouraged by Robert Neales novel 'Mist over Pendle', and that led to witch souvenirs being sold until it eventually specialised in selling all manner of things about witches. Maureen confessed to having now stopped making witches to sell, having crafted over 30,000 in her time there. Last year a small café was added to the side of the shop.

Although the talk was not intended as a history of the witches, Maureen set the scene outlining the lives of the families of the people who were branded as witches and hanged at Lancaster Castle in 1612.

Maureen also told of the many family historians who believe themselves to be related to these witches. People are known to have referred to themselves as having been "Pendled" many trying to locate the grave of the infamous Alice Nutter - a question that, apparently, is still not certain today.

Perhaps understandably, the busiest period for the shop is at Halloween, which Maureen compared to the first day of Harrods sale! Maureen also continues to be surprised how so many people want to walk up Pendle Hill on Halloween night, in the dark, although this time the health and safety authorities were discouraging this.

The fame of Witches Galore has spread far and wide and Maureen is asked to participate in film and documentaries for TV and radio and she is acknowledged as the expert on the Pendle witches.

JIM WATSON

The recent article on Edgar Watson (Summer 2009) has stirred memories of childhood for my member Pamela Maryfield's (née Cowgill) oldest-standing friend, Pamela Townsend (née Bradley). Pamela Townsend was the daughter of Billy Bradley, manager of Midland Bank in the 1930s and during the War. In 1944, the family moved to Ilkley.

"Pamela Townshend and I were friends from toddler days, and in spite of living at some distance apart - she moved to Paris after her marriage - we have remained friends. It seemed something of a coincidence when, in 1985, I moved to Old Windsor to take up a new job, I discovered that Pamela's godfather, Jim Watson, had been running the village post office and shop until relatively recently. As children, we had played in Jim's family's garden, which had a very useful summerhouse, so it was natural, that when I had more time in retirement, I saw Jim occasionally and we would drive out to a pub in Windsor Great Park for lunch and Earby reminiscences. He supplied me with one new piece of information about my father Ronnie Cowgill: that they were both members of a singing quartet with Lizzie Berry (wife of Edwin, the organist and joiner at Kelbrook) and one other lady, and gave occasional concerts in the 1920s and 1930s. I'm delighted that Pamela Townshend has provided us all with more about the multi-talented Jim Watson".

Pamela T. writes: "The article on Edgar Watson in the Summer Chronicles recalled childhood memo-

ries for me. Living near to Lane Ends in the late 1930s, his hens were housed close-by and I always think of him with a bucket of hen food over his arm. By that time, Jinny had married and moved away and Grace was alone at Lane Ends. In the next door house, Selcroft, No. 22 Skipton Road, lived Percy Watson with his wife (always 'Auntie Watson' to me), his son Jim and daughter Phyllis. Jim died only last year, 2008, at the age of one hundred.

Jim was educated at Ermysteds and then joined his father and his Uncle Stanley Watson in running the family mill in New Road. This would not have been his first choice of career but his grandfather had insisted! His pre-War years must have been happy and carefree bachelor days, going off on jolly jaunts by car with friends such as Norman Petty and Donald Falconer at a time when cars were something of a novelty. He had a fine tenor voice and, together with his father and sister, was a prominent member of Earby Amateur Dramatic Society. He was a member of the Earby Cricket team and a one time captain of Ghyll Golf Club, both sports remaining of life-long interest. Even in his nineties, he would pretend to bowl a cricket ball and swing a golf club.

He married Elizabeth Fort of Kelbrook in 1942 when serving in the army and after the War took on the responsibility of running the mill. This became difficult when the cotton trade declined. In 1958, the mill was closed and Jim, his wife and son John moved to Old Windsor to run a post office and shop, not an easy adjustment for someone by then 50 years of age. However, with hard work and determination, their business flourished and they stayed until retirement in 1976. They continued to live in the area on the west of Windsor and Jim enjoyed his golf at Datchet, being made an honorary member of the club when he was ninety.

Sadly John died in 1987 and his mother, Elizabeth, died in 1992 only ten days after celebrating her Golden Wedding. Jim continued to live in his own home into his early 90s, setting off for the day in his car, playing golf at least three times a week at Datchet and spending many happy hours playing the piano.

Twenty relatives and friends celebrated his 100th birthday in a residential home on the 2nd January 2008. Jim died just six months later very peacefully, never having lost a trace of his Yorkshire accent".

Pamela Townsend, Midhurst.

BAWMCAKER DAYS

Bob Abel

An article in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times of 29th November 1942 refers to the term "Bawmcaker". In 1942, Tank Week in Earby raised funding, as part of the war effort, to build a tank which was subsequently christened "the Bawmcaker".

At the end of the nineteenth century Bawmcake "was accorded, during feast week, an almost ceremonial place in Earby households; it was regarded as a special delicacy...". Hence Earby residents came to be known as bawmcakers.

A Mr Edward Hudson, who was born in 1867, was interviewed by the reporter. He remembered 60 to 70 years previously that "In those days, Earby men were known as Bawmcakers ... bawm was a corruption of balm, a herb found on the moors and used for flavouring cakes and sometimes pies."

It appears that it became a tradition to eat bawmcake at the feast time holiday at the beginning of July. Like many other country traditions the making of Bawmcakes has gradually died out and in 1942 it was only in the memory of the older residents of Earby.

It would be interesting to re discover this lost delicacy; but what is the herb referred to and what sort of cakes were flavoured with it? A challenge to say the least!

Do you have or know of any recipe books, as many households kept for jotting down grandmas recipes, which might refer to bawmcakes or can you identify the herb.

I have a vigorously growing Lemon Balm in my garden but this is a plant native of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean and unlikely to be growing wild on the moors above Earby!

Let the search begin

EARBY AMATEUR OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY by Margaret Greenwood

Part II

Following on from Part I (Autumn 2009 Edition) and based on a copy letter book

Early in 1930 Mr. E. Marsden is asked if he will coach the Society in its next production at a fee of 15/- per session for 30 sessions, plus expenses if additional sessions were required. However the Society was divided between "The Marriage Market" and "Katinka" and he is asked to choose one or the other, or to suggest some other musical comedy he thinks suitable for the Society. "Katinka" was chosen, but before arrangements are set in motion Mr. Smith writes to the Barnoldswick Choral Society letting them know that "the Earby Society has been compelled to bring their annual production forward to 20th-26th October". On the same date a letter is sent to the Amateur Operatic Societies League requesting an application for membership form.

At the end of March negotiations are initiated with Messrs. Macdonald & Young as to performing rights for "Katinka". A figure of £50 was stipulated as their fee, necessitating a further letter from Mr. Smith pointing out that this sum represented 25% of gross takings at Earby and asking if £30 could be accepted. A week later it appears a charge of £40 has been proposed, but Mr. Smith perseveres and points out that to produce "Katinka" the hire of costumes and scenery would cost far more than for previous productions and says the Society "would be obliged if you could see your way to help us by allowing us these rights at £35"! The outcome of this correspondence must have been satisfactory as on 24th April a letter is sent to Macdonald & Young thanking them for their letter and a contract, and indicating that the signed contract and a cheque for £15 will be sent in the near future. Enquiries then begin as to the cost of hiring costumes for a company of "about 35, say 50 dresses in all" and what the price per costume would be. Mr. J. Hey of Colne is asked to supply 30 copies of the vocal score for "Katinka" and a rehearsal is called for Monday, 8th May, at the Ambulance Hall.

By mid-June things are clearly going wrong and a letter is sent to Mr. Marsden as follows: "Owing to the acute trade depression in Earby we feel that it is best to postpone our production of "Katinka" until a later date. Our provisional arrangements are as follow: continue rehearsals one a fortnight until the 2nd week in September; if we can then see any improvement we propose giving the show the last week in March next year. Kindly let me know how this meets with your arrangements."

On 21st July a letter is sent to Macdonald & Young returning the unsigned agreement/contract as "We have been waiting in vain for an improvement in the state of the trade in this area which is very acute. We now feel we shall not be justified in going on with the production of "Katinka" this year, so we have postponed our production until next year. We will therefore take the matter up with you early next year." In the meantime discussions have been taking place with Mr. Marsden and it has been agreed he is to be paid a retaining fee of £10, to be part of his eventual fee for coaching "Katinka" next year.

From correspondence taking place between August 1930 and March 1931 it appears plans to produce "Katinka" must have been further abandoned as a letter to Mr. Marsden, dated 30th March, concerns arrangements to meet him in Keighley "re our next show"! Two or three weeks later a letter is sent to R. D'Oyly Carte, Esq. requesting permission to perform "The Mikado" and a month later the Society accepts the terms offered. Rehearsals began in August at the Baptist School, an unfamiliar venue for Mr. Marsden as he is given directions. At the beginning of September quotations are requested "at your keenest possible price for costumes for a company of 38". A quotation of £15 was accepted and performances of "The Mikado" must have gone ahead as a letter is sent to the costume suppliers asking for two large "strong fans, preferably silk or canvas, to be handed to the bearer of this letter as the ones we received are too frail and will not stand a week's usage". At the end of November a copy of the Society's balance sheet for the production of "Mikado" 26th-31st October is sent to R. D'Oyly Carte, together with an apology "for such a poor result, but we were hit by the General Election which came during the week". These accounts seem to have caused D'Oyly Carte

some problem as Mr. Smith sends him another letter on 7th December saying that "In reply to your letter of 12th December 1931 I beg to state that the professional status of "P. Ellis is that of a schoolmaster and is our duly elected auditor". Plans to produce "Katinka" were still in mind as on 23rd November Mr. Smith writes to Mr. Marsden inviting him to attend the Society's dinner at the Station Hotel and suggesting they discuss "our next show, i.e. "Katinka".

In December 1931 arrangements begin to be made for the holding of a masked fancy dress ball and supper to be held at the Albion Hall on 15th January 1932. Mr. Marsden was invited to become one of the judges, together with Mme Rainsford and Dr. Falconer. An invitation was also extended to the Barnoldswick Choral Society, indicating that two prizes of 15/- each, and two of 10/- each were to be awarded and full particulars would appear in the "Bellman".

By the end of December a decision must have been taken to proceed with a production of the postponed "Katinka" as a letter is sent to Macdonald & Young requesting permission to do this in October 1932. An agreement having been reached earlier to pay £35 royalties for six performances, Mr. Smith enquires if this offer still stands. In April a further letter is sent to this company confirming that "Katinka" will be performed 24th-29th October inclusive. By August ominous signs again begin to appear, as a letter is sent to Mr. Marsden saying that "after a long discussion last Friday we decided to carry on with the show, the date to be fixed at a meeting to be held 26th August"; but on 1st September a further letter is sent to him telling him that it has been "decided to abandon giving "Katinka" indefinitely. What will happen now no one knows"! On a more positive note there is a postscript that "we are holding our Fancy Dress Ball on 20th January 1933". A letter to Macdonald & Young, dated 20th September, informs them that, "Owing to the present industrial dispute here we have been compelled to cancel the date of our production of "Katinka". If we were to give it at the time fixed we should incur a loss from which I don't think we could recover"!

Despite the clearly difficult times the Society obviously decided to try something different, and in October Mr. Smith writes to W. Watson, Esq., 38 Clifton Drive, Manchester, asking for suggestions as to some short plays the Society could put on during the winter: "we would like a comedy and a straight thing but not a thriller ... for about ten characters". This is the last entry in the duplicate book so only further research may reveal the outcome of these plans, but circumstances must have eventually improved as the recent donation to the History Society archives consists of programmes for the following productions:

- 1933 No No Nanette
- 1934 The Girl in the Taxi
- 1935 The Girl Friend
- 1936 The Arcadians
- 1937 The Marriage Market
- 1938 Florodora

The donation of these programmes has thrown a little more light on the Earby Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society's activities. In February 1932 "The Devil is a Saint " was performed and it seems possible that this may be a play put on as a result of Mr. Smith's letter the previous October to W. Watson, Esq. asking if he can suggest any short plays suitable for the Society to perform.

By December 1933 the Society is once again putting on a musical comedy, "No, No, Nanette", the programme for which contains the following interesting President's Appeal:

"In presenting to you such a Modern Musical Comedy as "No, No, Nanette", we have struck a new note and embarked upon an ambitious project, which at once expresses our faith in the talent of our members and the loyalty of our supporters.

However much old favourites, such as the Gilbert and Sullivan productions, may appeal to some of us older people whose memory of them is often wrapped up in sentimental associations, it was recognised that this is a day of "Jazz rule" and that the appetite



of the young-
must be ca-

er generation
tered for".



This we think may be the cast of No No Nanette—do let us know?

In choosing "No, No, Nanette", we feel that we have achieved this without sacrificing a general interest.

"This is our most expensive effort to date and owing to a donation of £10 to charity after the 1931 production and a loss of £15 on the unfortunate abandonment of "Katinka" last year, we start out on it with practically no reserve fund. Nevertheless, we believe that our confidence in the generous response of our Earby friends will be vindicated and that we shall make good in spite of the fact that we shall need full houses to do so.

"In this connection, may I make an earnest appeal for more Patrons? For an annual subscription of one guinea, a patron is given the choice of five seats at any performance, for 10/6d three seats, and for 7/6d two seats, thus contributing only 7/6d or 2/6d to the Society's funds, as the case may be. We feel that there must be many of our regular supporters who would gladly help in this way, if the position were clearly understood, and I should be very grateful if any such patrons would kindly complete the application form at the foot of this page and send it to our Secretary, Mr. M.D. Smith.

"I thank you for your support, trust that you have thoroughly enjoyed "No, No, Nanette", and if so, ask that you will pass on this programme to a friend and urge him to help swell the Box Office receipts.

T.C. WOOLRIDGE
President"

If any reader of "Chronicles" has memories of the Earby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, information relating to the history of it, for example photographs, programmes, or other memorabilia, the History Society would be delighted to hear from them - contact Archivist Margaret Greenwood.

ALL SAINTS CENTENARY

The centenary of the dedication of All Saints Church, Earby, was celebrated this year during the week 6th to 13th September. Members of the church pulled out all the stops to present a week long exhibition of the life of the church. The Society was privileged to be asked to participate and we contributed our own exhibi-



tion on the history of the church and also launched Stephanie Carter's book on the church history "All Saints Earby 1909-2009 – the first 100 years".

The church archives were on display together with hundreds of photographs lent by parishioners and there were special displays of the wedding dresses of people who had been married in the church as well as christening mementos.

The magnificent church silverware was exhibited with the church vestments, in fact the church was packed with things to see. The week was concluded on the Saturday evening with a social gathering in the church hall and on the Sunday there was a

centenary service with the Bishop of Bradford in attendance followed by a buffet lunch.

All the church officials and parishioners are to be congratulated on their magnificent efforts and especially Churchwarden Vera Cocker for her enthusiasm and drive, particularly in the aftermath of the incident of vandalism at the church the previous week.

The actual centenary of the dedication was on the 11th December



**Chairman Bob Abel
scrutinizing the records**

and to mark this the decoration of the church for Christmas was brought forward and there was a Christmas tree display.



Visitors enjoy searching through records

church funds

The book on the history of the church is available from the Society or the Church or from Barnoldswick library at a cost of £7-00 which includes a donation to the

A great Christmas stocking filler

NOTABLE EARBY CITIZENS

Here is another of our series of brief sketches of some Earby men and women whose past labours have contributed to the civic, social and religious life of their township. This was first published in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times for December 12th 1941.

The name of JOSEPH FOULDS will waken, like a magic touchstone, memories of those halcyon days in Earby when amateur productions of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas, those popular and tuneful musical comedies, and other dramatic works were more common than they are today. Who among those who took part in them can ever forget the rapturous thrill that accompanies those first - and last - night performances; or for that matter, the laborious days, and nights, of coaching and polishing that preceded the final triumphant raising of the curtain.

Joseph Foulds was the spirit behind the many amateur productions that gave pleasure to players and audiences alike in those artistically fruitful years that stretched between the years 1910-23 and onward. He will be remembered by those with whom he worked in these dramatic and exciting ventures as a very great artiste, painstaking, kindly, self-effacing, but demanding, as a true artist must, the last ounce of energy and effort from every member of the cast, whether the part to be taken was a leading one or comparatively unimportant.

Joseph Foulds was, in his later years, a cotton manufacturer by occupation, but a musician by inclination and genius. At 16 years of age, at his home in Barnoldswick, he played the school organ, and at 23, when he had made his home at Kelbrook, he trained the choir at the United Methodist Church, and conducted a performance of the "Messiah" in the old Chapel at Kelbrook, which lasted 3½ hours. It was the first time the oratorio had been given in the district. Afterwards Mr Foulds took up his residence in Earby, and became conductor of the Baptist Church Choir. As a result, no doubt of his thorough training methods, this choir secured first prize in a mixed voice contest in Burnley. The gold medal awarded to himself on this occasion brought him singular pleasure. His daughters, Polly and Jennie, were talented vocalists. The former won first prize in a Colne festival and the latter was a member about this time of a Barrow quartet party, which was awarded first prize. Miss Jennie Foulds secured first prize in the contralto class, and Mr Virgil Crowther won first in both baritone and bass class. Another member of the party, Miss Grace Watson, of Earby, was a prize-winner at the festival. Later the Baptist Choir secured 2nd prize at a mixed voice contest at Hawes, in Yorkshire. On this occasion Mr Edwin Berry, who had formed a friendship with Mr Foulds, and often assisted him with piano or organ accompaniments, went with the party. Mr Foulds had, himself, a fine tenor voice, and kept up his connection with the Baptist Choir for over 20 years and in 1907 was presented by the members of the choir with a gold watch.

On special occasions he conducted the Earby and Barnoldswick Wesleyan Choirs, the Earby Methodist Choir, and the Salterforth Baptist Choir. There was nothing he enjoyed more than training the voices of young children. No effort or sacrifice was too great when opportunities presented themselves for this form of public service. Older Earby residents - and many not too old - will remember the combined Sunday School Demonstrations which took place annually in the district, and which he conducted for more than 20 years. On a number of occasions he conducted the singing at similar massed gatherings at Skipton.

But operatic music made the supreme appeal to his artistic soul. He as a younger man, had taken a principal part in "The Bohemian Girl" at the Nelson Theatre. About the year 1910 or 1912 he assisted a well-known Colne author, Mr Frank Slater, in the production of his own plays in Earby. These plays, among them being "Wycollar Dene" and "Monkroyd", have been produced many times since. The scene of these early efforts was the old Mechanics Institute, Earby. Then followed the formation of the Earby Amateur Operatic Society, and the production of several of the popular Gilbert and Sullivan operas, among them "The Mikado", "HMS Pinafore", and "The Gondoliers". A new Society was formed about 1923, and the services of Mr Foulds were requisitioned as conductor.

Mr Foulds's son, Haydn, a fine baritone singer, took leading parts in many of the local productions, as did his sister Jennie. Others who filled principal parts were Mr Garrett Hartley, Mr Joe Newell, Mr Willie Crowther, Mr Harry Turner, Miss Alice Edmondson (afterwards Mrs Gaunt), and Miss Parkinson (Mrs Green).

To the producer the "Chorus" was always of supreme importance, the libretto seemed sometimes to take a secondary place in his estimation. He felt that a perfectly sustained, balanced orchestral background

provided the atmosphere that drew out the best from each individual player. He could be severe, but if in the course of training he was induced to speak harshly, he would always find an opportunity afterwards to say a word of praise and encouragement to soften the hurt. He never spared himself in helping young aspirants to discover and develop whatever talent might be in them. He was a big man, in character as in physique, and Earby can well be proud of one who gave so completely of himself and of his genius to music and the dramatic arts. He died at 70 years of age at the home of his son, Mr L Foulds at Green End Road, Earby and left two sons and two daughters.

THORNTON-IN-CRAVEN CHURCH REGISTERS

As the ancient parish was Thornton-in-Craven, St Mary's Church parish registers have been a prime source for genealogists searching family history in Earby, Kelbrook and Thornton and local historians alike. This has prompted Barnoldswick Library to obtain copies on microfilm of these registers; it is hoped that those for Kelbrook and Bracewell churches will follow shortly.

These Thornton Registers were originally transcribed in a project carried out by the Society together with Rolls Royce Family History Society and Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society some years ago. These database records are available to be searched through the Society. However, it is always recommended that the original register is used to cross check as, no matter how carefully it is done, errors in transcription are inevitable. Or perhaps you would just like to see a copy of the original handwritten record or, for example, see which rector made the registration in the first place.

To avoid disappointment it is recommended that you make an advance booking at Barnoldswick Library as there is limited access to the microfilm reader. Telephone 01282 812147 and for further information speak to the Librarian Karen King direct.

The Library is open as follows:

- Monday 9.30 – 7.00
- Wednesday 9.30 – 7.00
- Thursday 9.30 – 5.00
- Friday 9.30 – 5.00
- Saturday 9.30 – 4.00

EARBY WAR MEMORIAL PROPOSED EXTENSION

As reported in the last Chronicles, Earby War Memorial has been designated a Grade Two Listed Building. At the moment only the names of those who lost their lives in the two world wars (1914-18 and 1939-45) are recorded.

It has been proposed by Earby Parish Council and endorsed by Pendle Borough Council that the memorial be extended so that the names of those who sacrificed their lives in other conflicts can be included. It is also intended that any name that has been omitted from the current list be added to the new extension.

Member Vera Cocker, who is also a parish councillor, is spearheading the scheme and will be applying for funding for the project. It is anticipated that the dedication of the new extension will take place on 14th August 2010.

In the mean time the Society has been asked to help trace any service personnel who would qualify for inclusion on the new extension.

The period to be covered will range from the Boer War to the present day and there hasn't been a decade in that time when British Armed Forces have not been involved in some conflict or other. It will also be possible to add names from future or ongoing conflicts, but let us hope this will not be needed. It has been resolved that a connection with Earby or Kelbrook be a criteria for inclusion no matter whether, for what ever reason, they may have been commemorated on another war memorial.

Do you know of any one who might be eligible to have their name included on the memorial or may

have, by chance, been omitted from the current names? We have already been informed about Keith Wintersgill tragically losing his life in the Korean War at the young age of 19, but there may be others.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has provided us with a list of some names from the Second World War which are not included on the current memorial but we need to be sure that there wasn't a reason for them not being included in 1948. There is also an instance from the First World War where one soldier is included but not his brother.

A lot of research is going to be needed in the limited time available so we will be grateful for any help whatsoever. Do you know of someone who needs to be included on the war memorial extension? Any information however tenuous may help.

The CWGC list includes:-

- TURNER, Brian (1944) – son of John and Annie Turner
- ROBINSON, Arthur Watson (1945) – husband of Winifred Robinson
- SHAW, Ernest (1946) son of Margaret Shaw
- NICHOLS, William Henry (1946) husband of Edith Nicholls
- HEY, Thomas (1942) son of Aaron and Alice Hey.

and any information on these men or their families will be useful.

If you can help please contact Bob Abel (01282 843850) or Vera Cocker.

FROM



**NEWS
THE PHO-**

TOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

It is remarkable that the society's photographic collection continues to grow as it does. We have over 3,200 photographs catalogued, with possibly two to three hundred more still to deal with. The latest donation came from Brenda Holmes who is the daughter of Charles Watson. Although she had little information

about them, she kindly gave the society several of her family photographs and here are a few for our readers to tell us more about.



This (catalogue shows a group of possibly teachers far left may be Albion Watson's son. Do you know where this was taken and the occasion?



photo number 3156) group of possibly the man on the far left may be Albion Watson's son. Do you know where this was taken and the occasion?

next photo-
(catalogue
3157)
man with
and cart do
know who
where the
was taken?



This
graph
number
shows a
horse
you
he is or
shot

This group of school children (catalogue number 3158) may have been taken possibly at the turn of the 19th century. Do you know which school this was? We do not think that it is the Earby Grammar School as the door is different, when comparing with other photos of that school.



This shot of these formidable looking Victorian ladies who again have no names (catalogue number 3159), do you know any of their names?

If you can add any further information about these photographs please contact us. Also please continue to donate any unwanted photographs to our collection, as you can see even family snaps can be of interest. The lack of names shows the importance of making sure that your family photos have names of the people on them and the date or occasion that they were taken.

Now some tips - Do keep them safe in dry, dark storage, if you want to write on the back of the photograph, write in pencil as ball point ink eventually seeps through the print and shows through to the front, spoiling the photograph.

The Society can supply acid free archival quality storage pouches for photographs and documents. Contact Bob Abel

If you have any photos that are of interest but you do not want to donate we

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).

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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. 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.

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FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

The whole programme for 2010 can be seen on the society's website, in the meantime here are the titles and speakers for the next four meetings.

Sourcing new topics and speakers is no easy task, so if you have knowledge of good speakers to recommend, contact our Programme Secretary Pat Pickard or Chairman Bob Abel with details—we look forward to your suggestions.

Tues 19 January: White Feather by John Hartley

Tues 16 February: Annual General Meeting.

Tues 16 March: Humour and Pathos in English Graveyards by Cliff Astin

Tues 20 April: " Snuff, Spinning and Spiritual Houses" by Harold Hoggarth

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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.