

# Earby Chronicles

Edition 101

Summer 2021

[www.earbyhistory.co.uk](http://www.earbyhistory.co.uk)



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## Almshouses, Thornton-in-Craven, Grade 11 Listed Building

“1815 these Almshouses for five poor women were erected and endowed pursuant to the desire of Joseph Smith late of the City of London, Banker, a native of this parish, out of the residuary estate of Rachel Smith, his widow”.

### 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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## OUR EPIC JOURNEY

by Peter Dawson as told to his daughter Hannah

*Following on from Stephanie Carter's article on Lothersdale in the Spring Chronicles, Peter remembers:*

"Back when Brian (Peter's younger brother) was a baby still in his pram he was very poorly with Whooping Cough. At this time Whooping Cough was a killer, meaning children who had it could not eat or drink for coughing. Our Brian was one of those children.

We took Brian to see Dr Niven who suggested that as a last chance, as he wasn't eating or drinking, we should take Brian up to Lothersdale to the Lime Kilns as he believed, as a last-ditch effort, the fumes from the lime could potentially cure him. We were instructed to hold him over the kilns briefly to let him breathe in the fumes.

Dad and I embarked on the trip up to Lothersdale. Brian was in a big coach built pram which was heavy enough. Dad was only small himself and I must have been about eleven, so getting the pram up and down the steep hills safely was a challenge. Brian was coughing all the way up and still hadn't been able to eat or drink.

When we arrived at the Lime Kilns we were greeted by the manager and we explained what we had been advised to do. The manager said that he had never heard the likes of it before and questioned if we had in fact been sent by a Doctor. Once Dad had explained, he made him sign a disclaimer should anything happen, I won't go into details of what could have happened. Once this was signed, the manager said OK, well this is in your hands now and took us up to the kilns.

The lid to one of the kilns was opened for us, which was a white-hot furnace inside. We carefully held Brian over the fumes for a few seconds as instructed. Another bloke took us to another kiln once this has been done and we repeated the process.

Once this had been done, we set off back home. Due to the steep hills and the weight of the pram we had to zig zag the pram down the hill; luckily there wasn't much traffic in those days. I remember we were really worried about the brakes on the pram. We must have been halfway down the hill when we heard the sound from inside the pram, Brian was wanting food and he wasn't coughing!

So, at the end of what Dad and I called our epic journey, Brian was cured of Whooping Cough, the fumes from the Lime Kiln had done the trick.

I always reflect to this day that we gave him his life at that moment which enabled him to have the life he has had."

Nowadays we have a vaccine to prevent whooping cough and whooping cough is normally treated with antibiotics.

Whooping cough is a highly contagious respiratory disease which was quite common amongst children. It is caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. Pertussis is known for uncontrollable, violent coughing which often makes it hard to breathe and there is the characteristic whoop sound. The sufferer runs out of breath after coughing hard several times in row and the whoop is the sound of a sudden, hard inhalation.

So what in the fumes could help relieve whooping cough or was it just a folklore remedy. We generally think of industrial fumes like those from lime burning or gas making as being noxious or even toxic.

Is there something in the gasses that relieves the whooping cough or is it just that it causes even more violent coughing which clears the airways? It is well known that coal tar has an antibiotic effect exemplified by its use in coal tar soaps, shampoos and skin lotions.

Whatever the reason it seemed to work in the case of Brian Dawson.

## NOW YOU SEE IT...

Ken Ranson



One of Salterforth village's little mysteries was the disappearance of the stone plaque set into the wall in the top right-hand corner of the frontage of the Anchor Inn.



PICTURE OF COAT OF ARMS  
ROBERT  
BROUGHTON  
MASON  
COAT ARMS  
IN YEAR OF OUR  
LORD 1778

When the canal came through Salterforth a bridge had to be made over the existing road which changed the level of the road so a new storey was built on the existing pub building. The builder was a local mason Robert Broughton who wanting to leave his mark installed the plaque.

Some while ago the masons at Barnoldswick had given an open house at their lodge prior to it being demolished and a member of the society (who wishes to be anonymous) went to have a look around. Whilst there one of the masons knowing he had an interest in local history showed him a stone plaque that had been in the lodge for many years and asked him to see if he could find anything out about Robert Broughton.

A search was made for any information on the internet and the following was found:-

**Salterforth: Date on house near canal bridge 1778 Robert Broughton, Mason**

The origins of the information are unknown; the house near canal

bridge being the Anchor Inn.

In the meantime the plaque had been cleaned which showed up the brass plate shown below:-



**Presented to Hardman Lodge No 1940**

**by W Bro Harold M Kenyon**

A search of the internet showed The Hardman Lodge being based in Rawtenstall. A search of the 1911 census for Rawtenstall found our Mr Kenyon.

Harold Kenyon was a director of John Kenyon Ltd Brewers who were acquired by Massey's Burnley Brewery Ltd in 1928. I can remember in my early days of going to the pub that most of the local pubs were owned by Masseys.

So Mr Kenyon had used his position for some reason to acquire the plaque and present it to the masons in Rawtenstall.

The remaining mystery is why and how it had ended up with the Masons in Barnoldswick?

## **THE STRIKE OF WEAVERS AT SALTERFORTH MILL 1907-08**

Stephanie Carter

In March 1907 weavers employed at Messrs. Brown & Co. of Oak Mill, Salterforth, together with those at Slater's Mill came out on

strike. The former firm operated 400 looms and the latter 200. The weavers claimed they were underpaid, the employers paying under the standard list price together with none recognition of the weavers' union. It was reported that "practically the whole village (is) on strike".

On 27<sup>th</sup> March weaver Joseph Watson was summoned to appear at Skipton Police Court charged with using obscene language to the police at a demonstration of a crowd of between 200 and 300 people outside the mill. He was fined 5 shillings and costs.

When in April it was alleged that some returned to work, the Cotton Factory Times reported that "it caused a great deal of indignation and the fact that they were mostly well-to-do people, and some residing in their own houses, has accentuated the position and led to some rowdy scenes, culminating in a police summons". The Strike Committee issued weekly reports refuting claims that some weavers had returned to work and stressing the determination to continue the fight.

On a regular basis there were conflicts between the strikers and those still at work.

In May an assault case resulting from the strike was investigated by the Skipton magistrates. The defendant was Walter Haines, a none union weaver, and the complainant Walter Riddihough a youth employed as a weaver and on strike over the question of wages and none recognition of the union. It was alleged that Haines was waiting on the canal towpath between Colne and Salterforth with the intention of "reckoning with certain union weavers who had been making matters hot for him". One of the union men referred to Haines as "Nobby" (meaning a knobstick-a strike breaker). It was alleged he turned on Riddihough, seizing him by the throat and throwing him to the ground with a threat to throw him into the canal. Haines denied the assault, explaining that in order to provide for his wife and family he had to turn his back on the union and return to work. The village constable spoke of hearing Riddihough and his strike companions make threats to Haines a few days prior to the alleged assault. He also gave Haines a good name and the magistrates dismissed the case.

In May the Strike Committee organised a "pie repast and concert" at Salterforth National School. It was said that "enthusiasm ran high all through the proceedings and a large number of people had to miss the concert owing to the crowded state of the room". The concert was given by the Earby Labour Glee Party and friends, whilst Mr Thomas Shaw of Colne attending on behalf of the Amalgamation, addressed the strikers with complements for standing firm, fighting for higher prices and being true to their Society and the Amalgamation.

In July Richard Riddihough and five other weavers from Salterforth and one from Kelbrook were summoned to Skipton Police Court for intimidating another weaver, Ishmael Harrison, who was a none union worker at Salterforth Mills. It was alleged that the defendants assembled in front of the mill after work and when complainant and his none-union colleagues appeared, followed them to their homes, shouting "Knobstick" and "Blackleg" at them; also singing "Keep the Red Flag Flying". The summons was dismissed through insufficient evidence to convict. Support for the defence of the six was given by the Earby Labour Party who in August held a concert at the Victoria Institute, Earby. The following artists appeared and kindly gave their services, which was very much appreciated by the crowded audience: Mrs Baldwin soprano, Miss Judd contralto, Mr Harry Judd tenor, Mr Parker Wormwell, Mr J Brooks humourist, Miss Duerden and Mr Pickup elocutionists, Mr R Booth (gramophone) and the Earby Labour Glee Party. The sum of £3.1s 4d was handed to the Strike committee.

In July the Strike Committee reported that "this is the 18<sup>th</sup> week of the dispute and the committee state that the strikers are still standing firm. They draw attention to a report which has been extensively circulated to the effect that Salterforth strike is practically settled, and state that there is not an atom of truth in it."

Collections and grants to aid the strikers continued to be made from branch committees of the Weavers Association throughout the Lancashire Cotton area including Colne, Nelson, Barrowford and Rishton.

In December 1907 at the Skipton Police Court two Salterforth striking weavers, each named John King, were summoned for throwing

stones through windows in Park Avenue. They were fined 20 shillings each and costs.

In December 1907 the Strike Committee stated that “ After fighting 31 weeks, the weavers on strike are still standing firm and loyal, and are determined to continue the struggle until proper prices are paid and their society is recognised by the employers”. It was reported that several employers in Barnoldswick and Earby were endeavouring to crush the trade union, help the Salterforth employers and retain the unfair advantage in prices paid for weaving . A few of the weavers on strike had been given offers of work at the new shed in Earby but had been told they could not be employed unless they went back to Salterforth Mill and worked their notice before they came out on strike.

The strike continued until May 1908.

By June it was reported that “the weavers’ strike at Salterforth may be said to be practically at an end, so far as any hope of a settlement is concerned with respect to wages. The employers have at last succeeded in getting all the looms running. There are a goodly number of strikers on the union’s books. The dispute, which originated on a question of underpayment on list prices, has been in progress about 14 months.”

A report on the Barnoldswick and District Weavers Amalgamation in the Cotton Factory Times on Trade Union Meetings and Reports 10<sup>th</sup> July 1908 stated: “The Salterforth strike was officially closed by the Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> May. The slump in trade, together with the assistance the employers were enabled to get from a certain section of weavers left us with no alternative than that of either paying a large number of these undesirable persons or of closing the dispute. We chose the latter course rather than see the members’ money squandered on this class of weaver, who in our estimation are the curse of the working class. Our one regret is that the members at Salterforth, who fought so bravely and well, have not been able to win that which every worker is surely entitled to – the standard rate of wages of the trade.”

A correspondent wrote of the Salterforth strike: “The strike at Salter-

forth which commenced in March 1907, will be memorable in the history of the weaving section of the textile industry, not only for the length and cost of the struggle involved in the dispute, but for the loyalty to the trade union cause which the strikers have displayed throughout the whole of the time the dispute has been going on...

The officials connected with the strike have worked like Trojans throughout the dispute, and the district committee have contributed handsomely to the operatives, who have fought and stuck to each other to obtain the prices in the district. Unhappily they have failed in their object. The cotton slump has been against them, and has wrought havoc with them in spite of their efforts to secure their object. The non-union operatives have also assisted the employers in achieving success, and in bringing about the operatives’ defeat. It is this non-union element in the operatives’ ranks which prevents the unions from forcing list prices in districts where employers are taking advantage of the operatives”.

## 55 COLNE ROAD EARBY

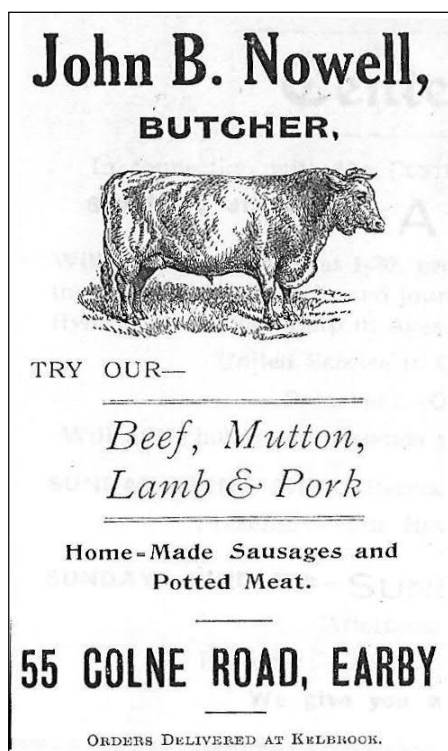
Who remembers the butcher’s shop at 55 Colne Road?



The photograph, donated by Cynthia Smith nee Nowell, shows Richard and Florence Nowell outside the shop approx. 1950.

It was a butcher's shop for 90 years from 1901 to 1991.

In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the shop changed hands three times. Thomas Wright butcher 1901, Albert Shaw butcher 1902 followed by James Hartley, who in the Barret's Directory of 1905 and 1908 is listed as a grocer. He advertised "Finest Keil butter and finest Irish roll bacon. His teas were "selected from the finest Tea Gardens in the world". Jams and pickles were also recommended.



From 1911 to 1979 the Nowell family were butchers at 55 Colne Road.

They originated from the Barrowford area and were farmers and cattle dealers. James and Martha Ann Nowell were the parents of two of the butchers in Earby – brothers Oates Judson Nowell butcher at 55 Colne Road 1911, and John Barker Nowell butcher at 55 Colne Road from 1914. John Barker Nowell's 1926 advert can be seen opposite.

John Barker Nowell died in June 1965. The business had been continued by son Richard (Dick) Nowell and his wife Florence Mary nee Watson.

On their retirement they sold the business to Keith and Anita Nash in April 1978. They closed the business in the 1990s and No. 55 Colne Road became a private house.

## ANTI -VACCINATION - NO NEW THING

Editor

The story regarding vaccination began in 1798 when a Gloucestershire doctor, Edward Jenner, successfully found that a relatively mild cowpox infection gave protection from smallpox.

In Britain a succession of laws in 1852, 1867, 1871, 1874, 1898 and 1907, becoming ever more stringent, made vaccinations free, then compulsory, backed by fines and imprisonment.

Vaccination against smallpox had been made mandatory for infants up to three months in the 1853 Vaccination Act. This was extended to 14 years of age in 1867 with penalties for resistance. The 1898 Act gave conditional exemption of conscientious objectors, allowing parents who did not believe vaccination was safe to obtain a certificate of exemption. This had to be obtained before the child was four months old and the certificate had to have the approval of two magistrates.

Those who were anti vaccination gave various reasons, from religious objections to the vaccine coming from animals, to a distrust of medicines in general, or a suspicion of the vaccine's efficiency. Most of all they objected to the mandatory order violating their personal liberty.

The anti-vaccination movement gripped Victorian England. Banners were brandished demanding "Repeal the Vaccination Acts, the curse of our nation". Copies of hated laws were burned in the streets. While riots took place in some towns, there was also more restrained opposition in the form of Anti-vaccination Leagues. There were strong local objections to vaccination in Skipton and Nelson. There were also supporters of the movement in Earby, with Rev. Walter Wynn (Baptist minister) as chairman of the local Anti-Vaccination Society.

In January 1901 James Briden and John Illingworth, weavers, of Aspen Lane, Earby, were fined 20 shillings and in August James

Sandham was summoned in two instances for failing to have his children vaccinated and fined 20 shillings in each case.

One Saturday afternoon in March 1901 the local branch of the Nelson Anti-Vaccination Society held a demonstration in Earby. The following account is taken from the Bradford Observer 11<sup>th</sup> March 1901:

“There are still people prepared to suffer the extreme penalties in order to maintain their personal freedom in respect of vaccination, notwithstanding the convenience afforded by the latest Act for procuring exemption from the obnoxious regulations. The village of Earby on Saturday afternoon gave a welcome to two of its residents who had suffered the penalty of a fortnight’s imprisonment at Armley Gaol for the non-vaccination of their children. These men were John Illingworth and James Briden, two weavers living in Aspen Lane, Earby, who some months ago were fined 20s by the Skipton magistrates for the offence and who – as they refused to pay the fine – were taken to prison a fortnight ago and liberated on Saturday.

The welcome was arranged by the Earby branch of the Nelson and District Anti-Vaccination Society, an organisation which has a numerous membership and following in the Earby district, where the public feeling on the question of vaccination is somewhat strong.

The men arrived home by the train which reached Earby station a little before four o’clock, and accompanied by a number of officers from the local branch, entered a waggonette which was waiting for them. In front were five mounted marshals in uniform, the banner of the society with the motto “Sanitation for the people, not vaccination”, and the brass band. Behind followed delegates from Burnley, Padiham, Nelson, Colne and Barnoldswick, who wore white rosettes and a number of members of the Earby branch. There was a large concourse of townspeople.

An extensive route was taken by the procession, which drew up in front of the Albion Hall where short addresses were given by Mr T King (Barnoldswick), Alderman Hudson (Nelson), Mr Hough (Manchester), Mr G Mason (Manchester) and Mr W Barratt (Nelson).

In the evening a public meeting was held in the Albion hall, where

Rev. W Wynn, Baptist Minister of Earby presided. The Chairman said they did well to give a welcome to the two noble, heroic and manly men who had had the courage to go to prison rather than sacrifice their principles, and they also did right to take the opportunity their return afforded to protest against the present vaccination laws, which were worse than before, though they seemed more fair. They were absurd and illogical, cruel and only a vile method of saving the pockets of the capitalists by increasing the Government revenue and the latter was at the bottom of the whole thing. He did not know what the discretionary powers of the magistrates were, but he thought that in this case the Skipton magistrates had gone the whole hog. The two men also spoke of their experiences. Referring to his removal to Armley, Mr Illingworth declared that the police officers urged him to pay the money due to escape imprisonment. His companion Mr Briden described the prison fare and routine...”

In February 1902 the Burnley Gazette reported on the Earby Guardians and Vaccination Exemption Orders. At the meeting of the Skipton Board of Guardians, Mr Parker Greenwood (Earby) moved a resolution to the effect that people applying for certificates of exemption to vaccination should not be put to the expense of paying fees for the certificate in addition to the loss entailed by leaving work to make the necessary application. There was a discrepancy in charges for the certificates ranging from 1s to 3s. He maintained that a uniform charge should be made. The resolution was seconded and carried. Colonel Maude, however, held that they were making themselves look perfectly ridiculous by pursuing such a resolution at a time when smallpox was spreading at an alarming rate. Surely, he added, when cranks and faddists got off vaccination by swearing to a conscientious objection, they could not object to paying fees.

In 1953 a boy in Leeds had died from smallpox. Men who had been in contact with the boy, who were working on the building of the Northolme Estate in Earby were vaccinated against the disease.

A global vaccination programme saw smallpox declared eradicated by the 1970s.

# “ONE TOO MANY” IN BARLICK AND THE INDIAN MUTINY

Bob Abel



## The Indian Rebellion—6th Dragoon Guards at Bareilly

Whilst browsing the British Newspaper Archive online I chanced upon an item from the Nelson Chronicle, Colne Observer and Clitheroe Division News (24<sup>th</sup> April 1891); it was a report of proceedings at the Skipton Petty Sessions court.

“Robinson Dobson, army pensioner, Salterforth, was fined 2/6 and costs for being drunk in Barnoldswick on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst.”

This set me wondering about this army veteran’s career and could I discover where he had served. I turned to Ancestry.co.uk for answers.

Robinson Dobson was born in 1829 in Colne, the son of Joseph Dobson. According to the records for Chelsea Pensioners he took the

Queen’s shilling (i.e. he joined the army) at York in 1847 and served for 21 years and one day. He enrolled in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Dragoon Guards. He gave his occupation as druggist. In 1852 he was transferred to the 6th Regiment of Dragoon Guards (Carabineers) - a cavalry regiment armed with carbine muskets.

From his joining up until 1855 the regiment was home based splitting its time between garrison duties in England and Ireland.

In 1850, the regiment must have been quartered at the barracks in Brecon, South Wales, as it is there that he married a local girl, Margaret Davies. On their marriage entry Robinson is described as Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards and his address as Watton, where the barracks was; he gave his father’s occupation as Cotton Manufacturer.

In 1855 the regiment was posted to the Crimea at the height of the Crimean War where the Regiment was involved at the siege and defeat of the Russian forces at Sevastopol. His army pension record also states that he spent some time in Turkey as well.

By 1856 the Crimean War was over and Robinson’s regiment of Dragoons was posted to India and was there at the time of the so called “Indian Mutiny”. According to his military record Robinson must have been stationed at Meerut, a city in the western part of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

The region around Meerut was the epicentre of the mutiny and the actions recorded on Robinson’s medal record include the names of places in that area including Meerut, Bareilly and Delhi.

Meerut became notorious for its association with the Indian Rebellion of 1857 against the British East India Company. The famous slogan “Dilli Chalo” (“Let’s march to Delhi!”) was first raised here. Meerut cantonment is the place where the rebellion started.

Bareilly was a centre of the Indian uprising of 1857.

The insurrection began on 10 May 1857 in Meerut as a mutiny of native soldiers (Sepoys) employed by the British East India Company’s army, against race and religion-based injustices and inequities, The flash point is said to have been an incident when 90 Indian Sepoys of



the Bengal Cavalry were on parade and ordered to do firing drill, their muskets using new Enfield cartridges. This was in the days when the powder for the muskets was contained in a cartridge from which the powder was decanted into the barrel of the gun for firing the ball. To keep the powder dry the cartridges were sealed with a greased paper which had to be torn off with the teeth. It was rumoured that the paper was waxed with either pork or beef fat.

To Muslims pork was contrary to their religion and to the Hindus the cow was a holy animal so in either case the Indians took this as an affront to their religious beliefs and refused to use these cartridges. The men were subjected to humiliation and imprisonment. This marked the beginning of a widespread revolt in northern India leading to the siege of Delhi.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon guard and the rest of the cavalry were prominent at the Siege of Delhi and when they were called upon to prevent the British camp from being overrun, they took a pounding from the rebel artillery and suffered many casualties.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoons were again prominent at the decisive battle of Baireilly.

In total, Robinson served 5 ½ years overseas and his wife Margaret must have travelled with him as they had two sons James Henry (1857-58) who died in infancy and Harry (Henry) Robinson Dobson (1860-1938) both born in Muratt, Bengal, India.

It can't have been easy for wives of ordinary soldiers at this time. While Margaret was pregnant with their first child in Meerut, the rebellion was going on around her. In fact several women and children were killed during the insurgency.

The family returned to England in 1861 and a daughter Elizabeth was baptised in Devon (1862) and a son, Joseph, was baptised (1866) at the army barracks church in Hounslow Middlesex.

Following a medical examination in Dublin on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1868, Robinson was discharged from the army as being unfit for further service suffering from "chronic rheumatism caused by long service in various

climates".

Even though Robinson was considered to have been of good character on his record and had four good conduct badges, he had his brushes with authority. He had 11 entries in the regimental defaulters book and was twice tried in a court martial. In 1854, he was promoted to Corporal but in April 1855 he must have committed some misdemeanour as he was demoted to Private. By 1859 he had worked his way back up to Corporal and in 1860 he was further promoted to Sergeant. However on Christmas Day 1862, when he was back in England, he was tried for being drunk (that must have been some Christmas party!) and reduced back to Private the rank he held until his discharge in 1868.

The Dobsons returned to Lancashire where a daughter Margaret was baptised in 1871 in Colne. On the night of the census that year Margaret and the children were recorded in Colne, the eldest surviving son 11 year old Harry was a cotton weaver. Meanwhile Robinson was at his father Joseph's house in Oldham. His father was recorded as a tripe dealer and Robinson a labourer in an iron works.

By 1881 the family had moved to Lower Lea in Salterforth. Both Robinson and Henry (Harry) were agricultural labourers, son Joseph was a cotton cloth weaver and daughter Margaret was a pupil at Salterforth National School.

By 1891 Harry had married and had six children and Robinson was living with them at a cottage adjacent to High Green Hill in Salterforth. Harry now worked in the stone quarry and Robinson was recorded as living on his own means, presumably his army pension.

Joseph had married and moved to Nelson as a weaver, later to take a drapery business before emigrating in 1912 to Australia.

By 1901 the 72 years old Robinson had moved in with the Edmondson family on Rostle Top Road in Earby. He was listed as an army pensioner and uncle. Fanny Edmundson (nee Illingworth) was Robinson's niece.

Robinson died in 1903 at the age of 75.

# CLOTHING COUPONS DURING WORLD WAR TWO

Stephanie Carter

I found amongst my late Mother, Edith Shuttleworth's, belongings two books of Clothing Coupons for 1947-48, one belonging to her and the other, a junior version, belonging to me, then aged 5 years. My Mother must have used the coupons sparingly as there were pages of orange, olive, magenta, and crimson coupons remaining in the books.

**CLOTHING BOOK** 1947 - 48 JUNIOR CB 4/10

This book must not be used until the holder's name, full postal address and National Registration Number have been written below. Detach this book at once and keep it safely. It is your only means of buying clothing.

HOLDER'S NAME S. SHUTTLEWORTH  
(in BLOCK letters)

ADDRESS NORTH HOLME FARM  
EARBY  
(in BLOCK letters)

HOLDER'S NATIONAL REGISTRATION No. KTEB/181/-

IF FOUND please take this book to any Food Office or Police Station

FOOD OFFICE CODE No. E. & W. R. 31. J

THIS BOOK IS NUMBER **JA 805056**

HOLD Pages I-VIII in one hand and **TEAR ALONG THIS LINE**

PAGE I



Clothing rationing was announced by the Government in June 1941. Food rationing had been in place since 1940. Coupon allocations decreased as the War progressed. Each type of clothing was allocated points, for example 11 coupons for a dress, 2 for a pair of stockings, 8 for a man's shirt or trousers, shoes 5 for women and 7 for men. Each adult was initially given 66 points. Children were allocated an extra 10 coupons as they were deemed to require more clothes as they grew. Rationing lasted until March 1949.

The following article is reproduced from the Barnoldswick and Earby Times 18<sup>th</sup> July 1941.

## CLOTHING CARDS WILL BE READY IN AUGUST

**But Margarine Coupons in the Old Food Books Are Valid Till May 1942**

Our war-time scheme for the rationing of clothing and footwear is now in its sixth week, and working smoothly. It has the full co-operation of shops and public, because it is generally recognised as a fair and practicable scheme. After all, it is a re-assuring thought that no one can buy a bigger share of the nation's clothing than you can yourself.

The Board of Trade was able to announce within four weeks of the start of the clothing rationing the clearing up of all the knotty points about exemptions, definitions and coupon rates.

This was the result of the work of expert traders' committees which were set up to advise the Board of Trade on shop problems. One change has been the division of certain classes of clothing into woollen and non-woollen groups which allow lower coupon rates in many instances for non-woollen garments. Skirts for example have a reduced coupon rating, namely 6 for a woollen and 4 for a non-woollen skirt instead of 7 in each case under the original scheme. It was a boon to women also to get 4 small handkerchiefs for one coupon instead of 2.

Concessions have been made wherever hard cases could be met without a wide-open breach of the rationing scheme, but perhaps the most welcome concessions to the public, particularly women, has

been the permitting of summer sales at lower coupon rates for the six weeks ending August 16<sup>th</sup>. This concession was made to enable shops to liquidate their stocks of summer clothes. There is no compulsion on the shop-keeper to sell at the reduced coupon rates if his stocks are low, but it is of special interest to home knitters that khaki dyed knitting wool as well as oiled knitting yarn can be bought in those 6 weeks free of coupons. Here is a chance for the home knitter to stock up in kitting wool against the long winter nights.

The main concern of the authorities has been to see that the public do not use up their clothing coupons at too fast a rate. 66 coupons a year average out at 5½ per month. It is essential not to waste too many coupons on summer wear, but to buy hard-wearing, durable materials and footwear. Of course it is essential to mend, darn and patch, and in general renovate our old clothes.

Many women, under the stimulus of rationing, have been spurred to make smart frocks out of their old clothes or remnants. Rationing may limit our buying but it does not limit women's taste of ingenuity.

We must therefore plan our spending on clothes wisely and economically. There is no shortage of clothing, but to make sure that adequate supplies of children's clothes and the cheaper kinds of adult clothing will be available in the coming autumn and winter, the Board of Trade are making special arrangements to enable shops to obtain supplies of this essential clothing immediately they pass on the coupons.

#### ECONOMY THE WATCHWORD

It is the duty of all of us to be economical. We must make our margarine coupons last as long as possible. They will be valid up to May 1942 and even perhaps longer. When they are used up the new Clothing Cards will be handed out. Actually the new Clothing Cards will not be ready until August, and when we have used up the margarine coupons we shall have to take our old Food Books to the Post Office and hand them over in order to get the new Clothing Cards. So it is important for everyone to be careful not to throw the old Food Books away.

The new Food Books contain a page of yellow coupons for margarine and butter. These have nothing to do with the clothing scheme. It is only the margarine coupons in the old Food Book which are available for clothing.

Economy in clothing coupons is now the watchword. We must try to put off the day when we have to collect our new Clothing Cards from the Post Office, and when we do collect them we must remember that we must cut our cloth according to the coupons.

### LOCAL COMFORTS FUND

Barnoldswick and Earby Times 27<sup>th</sup> June 1941

Friends of the Earby Local Services Fund are looking forward to a bumper attendance at the concert which is to take place at the Earby Empire on Monday next. Both the Earby and Colne Fund will benefit from the show, and the Mayor is expected to attend.

Earby has shown commendable zeal under its very able and energetic hon. Secretary, Mrs George Shuttleworth, in helping to mitigate the hardships necessarily suffered by Earby boys serving in various theatres of war. Over a thousand parcels have been despatched since the fund was opened eighteen months ago. Each has contained a pair of socks with other useful articles that have doubtless proved their weight in gold to the recipients overseas. One elderly lady, I learn, has knitted a pair of socks each week, without fail, for twelve months. Like the goods collected by the larger organisation, the WVS, each package carries with it to those bearing the burden of Britain's fight for freedom, an indication of kindness and thoughts from those left behind.

Tins of salmon, razor blades, food-stuffs, cigarettes, personal comforts and money form part of the contents of the parcels. One hundred and ninety six local "boys" received an Easter parcel from the fund, twelve of them serving in Iceland, others in the Far East and the Sudan. Hundreds of letters have been received from boys serving abroad which have amply proved that the efforts made on their behalf have been thoroughly appreciated.

It is gratifying to know that a generous gesture was made some time ago by the committee whereby other less fortunate lads serving with our own boys benefited. A well-filled parcel was despatched to an officer known to the committee with the request that the contents should be distributed to the boys not receiving a parcel from other sources. A fine gesture that is worthy of repetition!

## **DISGRACEFUL SCENES AT A FUNERAL IN BARNOLDSWICK**

Burnley Express 11 July 1888



“On Monday afternoon a painful scene occurred in St Mary-le-Gill churchyard (above) at the funeral of a child. The grave had been partially dug by the Vicar’s servant, but finished by the sexton. The Rev. J Woods, Vicar, read the service and when the time came for the coffin to be lowered, he assisted his servant to perform the duty, forbidding the sexton to render any help at all. The coffin fell into the grave head foremost and one of the sides was broken open. The mourners, as might naturally be supposed, were greatly distressed by this incident and a most painful scene was witnessed. The Vicar jumped into the grave to put the coffin straight. The grave had been dug from north to south and a complaint was raised on this score as also on the point that it was amongst the stillborn children, whereas

the child was seven weeks old and had been baptised by Mr Woods himself the day preceding its death. The Vicar promised to exhume the body and re-inter it when the parents desired without extra charge. The burial service having been gone through, however, he could not exhume the body without an order from the Home Secretary. The dismissed sexton received the usual fee from the mourners, and was severely chastised by the Vicar who threatened to sue him for it. The church wardens have waited upon the Rural Dean, who it is stated informed them that they could sue the Vicar for the illegal dismissal of the sexton. We are informed however that this course is not likely to be adopted, but in all probability the circumstances of the dismissal, together with a report of Monday’s scene will be laid before the Bishop of Ripon.

The following is the vicar’s version of the unpleasant incident:

A poor woman came to the vicarage of Saturday to say that the child I had baptised could not be buried before Monday, as the coffin would not be ready until then. The grandmother told me to make the grave anywhere in the churchyard and gave me to understand that she had no wish that it should be buried in any particular spot. Having dismissed my sexton for various illegal acts and for disobedience of my orders, I sent for a man to come and dig a grave. The man was not at home, and thinking his boy could dig a grave for a child one month old, I pointed out the best spot I could find. The boy had a nice grave ready long before the hour fixed for the funeral, but the late sexton, his son and Mr F Bracewell went to him. The late sexton would interfere and dig the grave, the boy being obliged to step out otherwise he would have been hurt with the pick.

The boy tolled the bell and was prepared to do all that was required, but the sexton, acting under F Bracewell’s instructions, demanded 2s 6d from the person appointed to pay the fees before the gate of the churchyard was unlocked, and gave the certificate. Though ordered by me not to interfere, the sexton wanted to take the coffin. I ordered the boy to lay the coffin on two cords while I read the sentences, and there being no males among the mourners, I assisted the boy to lower the coffin into the grave. The sexton, however, stood in my way, and

consequently the boy's cord slipped and caused the coffin to alight on one side. I then placed the coffin in the proper position and wished to proceed with the service, but someone had told the grandmother that stillborn children were buried there, and she walked to a spot where she would like a grave. I offered to be at the expense of making a grave there and bury without a fee, but she and the mother said "It does not matter" and I proceeded with the service.

After the service the grandmother handed me 1s 6d and told me that Robinson had demanded 2s 6d before the gate was unlocked. I then told her I intended to make her a present of 2s 6d as my boy had dug a great part of the grave, and was well able to do the work. I told the grandmother to demand the 2s 6d back, which she did, but Robinson refused to part with it. The grandmother followed me into the church and told me it was quite right to make the grave where I had ordered it to be made, and she left the church perfectly satisfied.

It is quite clear that the sexton is acting under the seceders' warden's instructions who seem determined to have their own way and master me. But I am determined to be the master of my churches and churchyard if the law does not forbid it. In all probability there will be considerable litigation as the result of Monday's proceedings, as the sexton had no right either to demand 2s 6d or to interfere in any way, nor had his son or Mr F Bracewell any right to interfere at a funeral. They are all liable to an action at law. I have issued notice informing parishioners and non-parishioners that Adam Robinson is not the grave-digger and no money must be paid to him or arrangements made with him at the Mary-le-Gill churchyard. I consider that the late sexton's charges are exorbitant and am most anxious that the burial fees should be reduced as soon as possible."

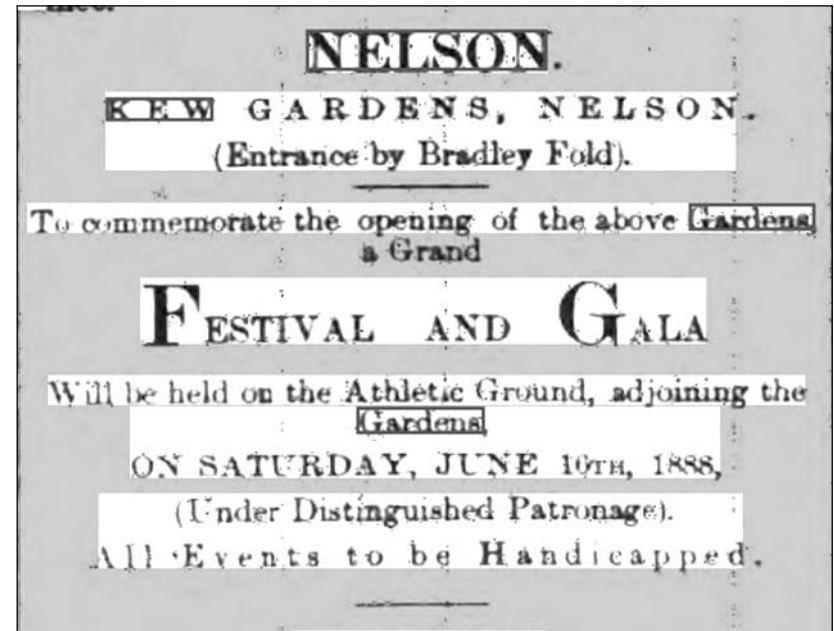
Definition of "secede" One who secedes or withdraws from communion or association with an organisation.

**The above incident led me to investigate what became known as The Barnoldswick Church Scandal and in the next edition will reveal much more about the "seceders" and Rev. John Woods who was vicar of Barnoldswick 1887-1890. Editor**

## NELSON'S KEW GARDENS

Stephanie Carter

In June 1888 the town of Nelson was crowded with visitors. They had come to see the opening of Kew Gardens with its garden conservatories, ferneries, rosaries and forcing house, together with other attractions which included races of all descriptions and a football competition, with music provided by Nelson Prize Brass Band. The



promoter was Mr Thomas Hargreaves of Belvedere Villas, known locally as "Peepy" – he had lost an eye. Born in Barrowford and originally a tailor, he had become a builder, acquiring land in the Bradley district of Nelson. He built and owned much of the property in Bradley, together with the Queens Hall. He became one of the first members of the Town Council and knew the value of advertising and publicity.

**EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS- CLOSING OF A FOOTPATH  
IN NELSON**

“On Saturday night the district of Lower Bradley, Nelson, was the scene of a most extraordinary demonstration. A few weeks ago Mr Thomas Hargreaves, of Nelson, purchased and enclosed about eight acres of pleasantly situated land on the northern side of the town, intending to convert the enclosure into public pleasure gardens. Running through the enclosed land, and leading from Bradley Lane to Hodge House Farm, is a footpath which has been open to the public from time immemorial. In order to secure privacy for his enterprise, Mr Harrison has closed this footpath, constructing in its stead one which runs parallel with the substantial palisading erected around the land called Kew Gardens. This appears to have given offence to a section of the inhabitants, who brought the matter before the notice of the Local Board, to whom Mr Hargreaves has subsequently submitted a plan of the diversion for approval



On Saturday afternoon a meeting of ratepayers was hastily convened by the bellman to protest against the closing of the footpath. A few hundred persons assembled in the centre of the town at half past six and immediately formed themselves into a procession. Provided with hand-saws, hatchets and mallets, they proceeded down Scotland Road, increasing in numbers as they advanced. At the top of Bradley Road the party divided, one division going to the end of the road – the path which leads into Bradley Lane – the other to Hodge House end. Meanwhile a larger number of persons hastened to the defence of the barricades, and in a short space of time a crowd of three or four thousand persons had assembled at each end of the footpath.

About half a dozen of the local police went to the scene of the demonstration, to prevent, if possible, a breach of the peace; but they were almost powerless. The attacking party were without organisation, and evidently did not have the sympathies of the crowd. A gala was in progress in the grounds at the time, and the patrons of the gardens at once rushed to the assistance of the defenders. Amidst great uproar the processionists were attacked before they could commence operations in pulling down the obstruction to the footpath. The staves and other instruments with which they had provided themselves were secured and confiscated and thrown inside the grounds.

Frustrated in the attempt, the attacking party had soon to act on the defensive. Stones, earth and sticks were freely thrown about and a free fight ensued amongst the crowd outside the enclosure. A great many persons received ugly blows and wounds, and the melée continued until the attacking force desisted.

At the Hodge House end of the footpath the attacking party were more successful. Here had been accumulated thorns which had formed the hedge which previously bordered the footpath. Paraffin oil was thrown and the bushes ignited, but the progress of the flames was quickly stopped by the defenders, who provided themselves with squirts and liquid used for gardening purposes. Indeed the defendants used this with great effect in beating off the attack, which as dusk drew on became more determined.

Rushing on the thicket, the police being very badly treated in the fray, the besiegers succeeded in breaking down the barricade. Soon afterwards they began to exert their violence on the adjoining palisading, and by and by for a considerable distance there was nothing left to prevent from access to the grounds. A garden plot was over-run and destroyed, and plants, stones, earth etc. were thrown in all directions. The defending party was then reinforced, and amid a shower of stones etc. set about repairing the fence. Resisting the attacks, which were frequently renewed, they were successful in restoring the palisading in its former position.

Darkness afterwards arrived, and the attacking party, seeing that they were overpowered in numbers and force, withdrew, little better for their adventure, while many had been very roughly handled in the fight. A renewal of the disturbance is however threatened.”

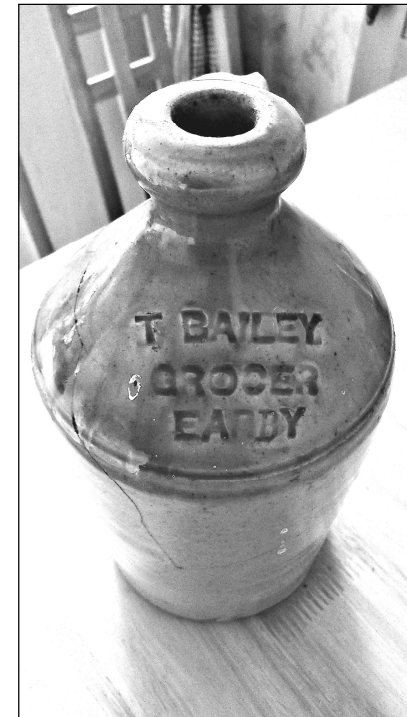
**Over the next few years (1888-1890) Kew Gardens attracted thousands of visitors from a very wide area, and the railway companies ran special trips to the town, even from places as far distant as London. In the next issue of the Chronicles I will recount some of the extraordinary events which took place in Kew Gardens. Editor**

### **Easter Rally of Motorists in Skipton April 1924**



## **ADDITION TO ARCHIVES**

Stoneware jug with the name T Bailey, Grocer, Earby, donated by Peter Dawson



At Baileys (46/48 Water Street) you could buy almost anything. Records show that the shop was established in 1842 and operated as a grocer, provision dealer, draper and seller of furniture and household goods until the 1940s. In 1892 bedsteads, mattresses, flocks, ticks and brushes were for sale. A notice in 1908 advertised “all the newest designs in carpets, linoleum and oil cloth...sewing machines, wringing machines and washers...” After the 1st World War Albert Bailey stopped selling provisions and only sold furniture. Bedding was sold upstairs and the furniture was displayed in the building at the side. The shop closed during the 2nd World War and the property was bought by Ouzledale Firemaster. After the war people were renovating their houses and Ouzledale fireplaces sold well.

## THE SOCIETY

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

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

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Overseas £15.00

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### PROGRAMME FOR NEXT QUARTER

**Tuesday 21st September** Chris Helme - Other Peoples Rubbish

**Tuesday 19th October** Vera Breary - Romans, Quakers and Textiles  
the story of Old Road Thornton in Craven

**Tuesday 16th November** Margaret Brown and Wendy Faulkner  
Earby's Corn Mill

**Tuesday 21st December** Linda Sawley - Christmas History

**NOTE—This programme is provisional depending on the Covid 19 situation, See local press and social media nearer the time for any updates.**

### 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.

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