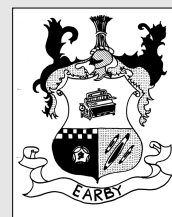


Earby Chronicles

Edition 51

WINTER 2008



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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NEW ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE AUTUMN FAIR

The New Road Community Centre held its annual Autumn Fair on Saturday October 4th. The theme this year was pirates and local children were delighted to take part dressed in pirate fancy dress for which a competition was organised, a treasure hunt and art competitions were also well supported. Many local groups were represented and held a variety of stalls and the organisers were pleased with the attendance for such a horrible wet day. As usual our Society supported the event this year hosting a stall selling our own and other local history publications with £124 raised from book sales to add to Society funds.



Margaret Brown, Helen Horner & Sue Janion on the stall

The occasion was used to launch the latest book "Earby Co-op, the Peoples' Shop, 1875-2008". This has been researched by Bob Abel and Stephanie Carter (see photograph—right). This great social history book is available from the Society for collection at (£7-50) or by post at (£9-00) by contacting the Treasurer. With Christmas fast approaching this will make a great stocking filler for family and friends born and/or brought up in Earby.



recent talks & features

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STOOPES HILL

The item in the Autumn Edition on Stoopes Hill has certainly raised people's interest. Michael Crewdson and Trevor Tattersall have both given their recollections.

Firstly, from Michael who raises a question over the spelling of Stoopes Hill i.e. ending in ES, asking if early ordinance survey maps describe it as "Stoops Hill". A quick check suggests it was never actually named on OS maps [Editor].

As a schoolboy in the 50's Michael recalls Stoopes Hill was a popular route down to Water Street from Stoney Bank Road. We used the lane to walk to Alder Hill School, until closure in 1961 as a Secondary Modern School.

The "Hill" was never overgrown with weeds and grass in those days and was used by everyone walking, cycling, or with prams and even the odd car, although there weren't many private cars about in the fifties.

The family could never find out why it was nicknamed "Jim Lane". If one was to ask directions to Stoopes Hill, in early days not many people could answer this, but all knew Jim Lane.

The primary use of the lane was as the main access route to the field and meadow now occupied by Long Green and Reeval Close, by the farmer at the bottom of Stoopes Hill (Cowgill Farm); in my days the Blackburn family owned the farm.

There was a very large Barn in the field, (Blackburn's Barn); this was demolished to make way for new housing in the seventies. Its name on OS maps is Nicky Laithe, perhaps a relation of Jim's?

The lane was used by the farmer's vehicles when haymaking, originally horse drawn of course, but later by tractor and trailers. I remember the Blackburn's owning a very large Army type truck for haymaking.

I once left my "push bike" in the lane, and by accident it was crushed by the Army truck driven by Brian Blackburn, whilst taking hay down to the lower barn at the back of the farm at the bottom of Stoopes Hill.

As far as I knew, Stoopes Hill formed part of an early bridle path, which went across Spring Field, top of Barnwood Road, and eventually found its way to Kelbrook?

I moved to No. 3 Stoopes Hill with my parents in 1969. My mother still lives in the cottage. We were led to believe the cottages were built for handloom weavers. A small loom would have been situated in the basement (cellar). We believe the cottages (1 - 3 - 5) were built in 1831, (we are at some stage going to have a look at our Title Deeds).

The Roman numerals in the plaque are MDCCXXXI (1831)





It was in 1973 that the West Riding Highways Department, compulsory purchased No. 1 Stoopes Hill for the new "Road Widening Scheme" of Stoney Bank Road. The "Plaque" currently situated in the Gable End of No. 3 Stoopes Hill was originally situated in the stonework between No. 1 and No. 3 facing the open meadow (now Long Green).

During the "demolition" process, my father (Allan Crewdson) rescued the plaque from the rubble, cleaned and painted it, then had it re-set into the new Gable End wall of No. 3 by the builders, now facing onto Stoney Bank Road. All that remains now is No. 3 and No. 5 of the original cottages.

And secondly from Trevor who lived at 7 Stoopes Hill from about the end of WWII until he married in 1965.

The front access was obviously public with a private common access at the rear. He recalled Sar' Ellen's cottage being demolished and moving of the plaque.

He has always understood that Jim Lane was an occupation road to Cowgill Farm on Water Street and recalls Harry Blackburn haymaking during the War leading his hay by horse and cart from the big meadow below Mill Lane down Stoney Bank and Jim Lane to fork into his barn by Keb (Windle) Bridge. After the war an ex Army truck brought the hay down the field via Nicky Laithe so presumably the lane was too narrow/rough.

During the late 1940s I often used Jim Lane on my way to the railway station to go to school at Ermysteds, Skipton, and to the best of my knowledge the lane was never closed to maintain private ownership. Harry and Maura's son Dennis has confirmed my understanding.

After the War the lane deteriorated into a footway although I can remember driving down it in the late fifties in our Morris Oxford (STD 965) and the early sixties in our Mini Clubman (440 PAF).

After demolition of Nicky Laithe and the house building the lane deteriorated rapidly into an overgrown pathway sometimes with garden rubbish dumped along the way.

Perhaps Lancashire Council will find it to be a continuation of the route down from Moor Hall, across Barnwood and along the line of the current school entrance road.

These recollections will be passed to Earby Parish Council to add to the evidence being gathered for submission to Lancashire County Council to support the application for public rights if way status.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Society annual dinner will be held in 2009 at the White Lion, Earby, on Saturday February 21st (see booking form attached). We have for several years dined at Aunty Emily's Tea Rooms but this year the proprietor, Janine Bowker, has decided to close. We thank her for the warm welcome she has always given us and the excellent food she has served and wish her well for the future.

EARBY—WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE

The event took place at Earby Library on Water Street on Saturday October 25th. From the local history point of view the theme was Earby's Textile History. Earby grew from a sleepy agricultural / hand loom weaving village to a thriving textile manufacturing town with the starting of the mills from 1850 onwards. There is now nothing left of that industry which caused Earby to grow and develop. We asked people to bring memories, photographs and memorabilia and to help jog peoples memories there was a photographic exhibition of aspects of the textile industry in Earby. From the family history point of view, the library services demonstrated how the internet can be used for family history research particularly such sites as Ancestry.com which is freely available through the library computer system. There were also transcripts of local church registers to use.

Andrew Walmsley was demonstrating the internet and we asked him if he could do a short article for Chronicles regarding the library on line news paper archives which include the Leeds Mercury.

Through using www.lancashire.gov.uk/onrl, as explained below, those who are members of Lancashire Libraries can, by using their library membership number, have the added benefit of accessing these archives from their home computer.

Great news for (Local) Historians

Lancashire County Library and Information Service now provides FREE online access to historic newspapers from the Online Reference Library
www.lancashire.gov.uk/onrl

19th Century British Library Newspapers offers national, regional and local 19th century British newspapers, taken directly from the holdings of the British Library.

Holdings include:

Newspapers for Preston, Manchester and Liverpool as well as the Leeds Mercury (1807-1900).

The complete digital edition of The Times (London) from 1785 to 1985. Every page of every issue includes headlines, articles, images, editorial, birth and death notices and classifieds.

The Burney Collection—the largest single collection of 17th and 18th century English news media available from the British Library and includes more than 1,000 pamphlets, proclamations, newsbooks and newspapers from the period.



You can use these sources at any People's Network PC in Lancashire Libraries or the Lancashire Record Office and from any PC by logging on with the membership number on your Lancashire Library card.

The Online Reference also provides remote access to other standard reference resources such as the **Oxford English Dictionary**, the **Dictionary of National Biography** and the **Encyclopaedia Britannica**. **Xrefer/ Credo** and **Oxford Reference Online** and also gives

access to current editions of about 300 standard reference works. All these products are freely available and can be used at home by members of Lancashire Library.



For more Information contact: Andrew Walmsley, Local Studies Library, Lancashire Record Office, Bow Lane Preston, PR1 2RE. Tel: 01772 534020/1; Fax: 01772 534149

THE EARBY MILLS AND MILL WORKERS

Exhibition held in Earby Library in November and December 2008.

The exhibition was part of the joint event and showed a series of photos of Earby's mills and weavers from the early days to the last mill. It was then transferred to the library for display throughout November and December 2008.

It was enjoyed by many people bringing back memories, good and bad, of the mills and weaving. As part of the exhibition we asked people to write their memories and stories, which would then become part of the exhibition. Here are a few and if you want to add your own story to these please do send it to the Editor. If you worked in Earby's mills then you will be among the last people who knew what it was like to work in a cotton mill, so your story is very important.



Mill Workers—Earby

Harold Duxberry will be well remembered as one of Earby's 'characters', he is said to have climbed Victoria Mill chimney and sat on the top playing his tin whistle, all for a bet!

Grandad, Grandma, Aunties and Uncles all worked in mills at Earby. Dad always tells of people going early in the morning to get looms, and warming themselves against the chimney at Victoria Mill. If you got there late you had no work. I went into the mill at Salterforth after leaving school. I remember looms catching fire and the incredible noise (no ear defenders then).

Wages: I worked as a junior clerk at Johnson and Johnson's in Victoria Mill. We had to collect the weeks' wages for all the workers from the Midland Bank (where Chilli-Peppers restaurant is now, next to the bus station). I went with Mr Porter the accountant and we had to carry all this money back through town to the mill. We never thought that anyone would rob us, even though we were carrying a large sum of money.

Weavers Talk: I remember my Gran using weaver's talk. She would talk to my mum who also worked in the mill but when she got to any gossip that she thought was not suitable for myself and brother and sister to hear, she would use weavers talk, we could not understand it and found this very puzzling as the only thing we could hear was her false teeth clattering!

Piece work: In the early 1930's most weavers were on piecework, which meant they got paid only when a piece (or length) of cloth was doffed from the loom, taken to the warehouse and inspected. One weaver normally looked after three looms but if they were unlucky and none of the looms doffed in a particular week there was no pay that week. This changed when weavers were paid by the number of picks woven per week.

A.J. Birley: A. J. Birley was one of Earby's main mill owners until his death in 1942. He was also a leading civic figure being the first Chairman of Earby Urban District Council when it was set up in 1909. It is little known that in his younger days he played football for Burnley F.C. when they converted from playing rugby to playing Association football.

Also from the exhibition we were asked for the following request "Does anyone have a photograph of what was the Grocers Shop on Langroyd Road; if so could you please contact Bill Lee on 01535 657583 - Thank you.

HISTORY OF ROLLS ROYCE AT BARNOLDSWICK

Our guest speaker at the September meeting was Dr. Gerry Fitzpatrick who spoke on the history of Rolls Royce in Barnoldswick and about the rigorous testing which had to be done on new engines. Gerry has worked at Rolls Royce for over 30 years, latterly in a consultative capacity. The story begins in the turbulent times of the Second World War with the development of jet engine propulsion for fighter aircraft.

In 1941 the Ministry of Aviation designated the Rover Company to develop the jet engine, with Frank Whittle, the inventor of the concept, into a viable proposition. Things pro-

gressed slowly and eventually the development programme was handed over to Rolls Royce and the project was transferred to Clitheroe.

In 1943 Rolls Royce acquired the Bankfield site in Barnoldswick. It was considered an ideal site in that it was away from major conurbations and was also out of the range of the Luftwaffe.

The first production jet engine produced was Rover's Welland engine in 1943 but this was superseded in 1944 by the RB 37 developed at Barnoldswick and this was used in the latter months of the war on Gloster Meteor aircraft which were used to chase and destroy the German flying bombs.

By 1945 engines with 5000 lbs thrust, the RB 42, were being produced which were the first all Barnoldswick built engines. At the end of the war these engines were exported particularly to America and Russia. This resulted in the Americans developing jet engine technology and the Russians using these engines on their MiG fighters during the Korean War against the Americans.

Developments continued after the war and Barnoldswick became the "Jet Engine Centre of the World". Experimental engines were developed and the prototypes built and tested at Barnoldswick but the main manufacturing was done at the Derby works.

During the 1950s and 60s experimental work continued with prototypes being built and new manufacturing technologies also being developed. 1969 saw the first of the famous RB 211 engines built at Barnoldswick but tested at the Derby test bed. However the crippling development costs of the RB 211 caused the company to become bankrupt and it had to be rescued by the government.

The 1970s saw the development of the rapid manufacture and shaping of engine blades. In pre computer days the development of new blades relied somewhat on trial and error. A new blade was manufactured and tested in an actual engine and if the shape needed "tweaking" another was made and tested again and so on until the optimum shape was found. Obviously it was essential that new blades could be produced quickly. Now the design work is done using computer models avoiding the many trials which were formerly necessary.

The 1980s saw engine manufacture cease at Barnoldswick and millions of pounds were invested in establishing state of the art fan blade and bearing housing manufacture. Further investment and expansion has continued and since 1985 over £100 million of investment has gone into the Barnoldswick sites. Due to increased computerisation and newer manufacturing technologies the work force has reduced from some 31,000 in the 1980s to 935. Later developments have been concentrated on the hollow wide chord fan blade. The lighter the engine for a given thrust the more fuel efficient the aircraft is and by using a honeycomb type structure this has been achieved.

Obviously safety is an important aspect of aircraft engine design and tests against the impact with adverse weather conditions e.g. hail storms and monsoon rains and impacts with stones and birds are essential. The effect of blade failure also has to be tested to prevent the catastrophic consequences of loose blades on engine or fuselage.

The employees of Rolls Royce at Barnoldswick can feel proud of their technical achievements in jet engine development and this has been recognised particularly with the Queen's Awards for Technical Achievement in 1987 and for Manufacturing Excellence in 1997.

A HISTORY OF EARBY **A talk by Clarice Carlisle**

Member John Turner is painstakingly transcribing articles relating to our district from old local newspapers. John has also come across a script of a talk given, many years ago, by Clarice Carlisle who died in 1993 aged 93. She was a teacher at Alder Hill School when John's aunt Alice Mona Collyer started school there aged 5 in 1925. Miss Carlisle taught my aunt in her third year at school and was described as being "young and pretty".



Teachers at Alder Hill School
Back Row—Unknown, Lewis Lord, Tom Woolridge
Front Row—Clarice Carlisle, Millicent Turner, Lily Green

This talk was obviously written some 50 years ago and must be read in that context.

Clarice begins—Firstly perhaps I had better explain how I came to take an interest in local history. Many years ago during an inspection by H. M. Inspectors of schools, I was taking 11 year olds, following the scheme, which had been presented to me, on the British Commonwealth (Australia to be precise). When the lesson was over, the inspector, to my surprise, began to question the class on their village, and naturally, with their minds on distant lands, the answers were anything but enlightening. Turning to me she said "why not start nearer home & teach them about their own surroundings?"

This view having been conveyed to the boss, the outcome was that I was asked to scrap the old scheme and prepare a new one. No amount of arguing was any use. H M Inspectors must be humoured.

I didn't know much about the historical background and what is more didn't know where to find out. It must be elementary because the children were only in their first year at the school. Nevertheless they proved to be an enthusiastic lot of children and helped to collect information from all sources. I visited the library but with very little result. Arthur

Mee's West Riding contributed one paragraph.

Obviously whoever came here on Mee's behalf had not been impressed, neither were all his facts correct. The grammar school, built in 1594, is 16th century not 17th century neither at that time was it a dwelling. Next I went to see Mrs. Hartley, widow of Mr. John Hartley and she lent me a scrapbook containing cuttings of articles written by Mr. Hartley for the Pioneer or Craven Herald. From these I obtained quite a lot of information and I am grateful to the late Mr. Hartley who must have carried out quite a lot of research. Later I came across, quite by accident, a rough manuscript of a book written by Mr. Lindley, schoolmaster in the village from 1885-1920. He took quite an interest in the history of Earby, which, when he came, was of course much smaller than it is now. This proved invaluable. My parents were able to give me help, having been born in 1874 and 1873 respectively. From the Council Offices I obtained old maps, plans, records of population, births, deaths, weather, local government etc. and gradually built up a scheme to last a year. Obviously in the time at my disposal this will have to be a very brief account. Unfortunately very little of this relates to Salterforth, though much of the same conditions probably prevailed.

We know that people lived here in the stone, iron & bronze ages, because from time to time relics of these times are found in the ground. There is also evidence of Roman occupation, though on a small scale. People have tried to excavate camps, though without much success, the most extensive work many years ago at Elslack. Traces of Roman roads can be found – Brogden Lane from Barnoldswick to join the Gisburn – Blacko road. One from Thornton to Booth Bridge, then over the moors, are examples.

The name Earby (originally Eurebi) is probably Danish, Euri meaning a stream, and "by" a common Danish ending, meaning "the village by the stream". This district was part of the Danelaw which Alfred gave to the Danes so as to keep the southern kingdom free from attack. He was not interested in the north as it was considered to be rough and uncivilised.

When William the Conqueror subjugated Britain in 1066, Yorkshire was the last part of the country to resist, and it wasn't until 1069 that it was finally subdued and as a punishment the whole of the county from the Humber to the Tees was laid waste; the inhabitants either fled to the mountains of the West or were killed; 100,000 are said to have been slaughtered. It was a long time before the ground was tilled again. This part of Craven was given to Norman Roger de Poitou and it is his name, which appears in the Domesday Book in 1085. The entry, a copy of which can be seen in Whitaker's History of Craven, tells how many carucates of land he owned to be taxed, a carucate being the amount of land a team of oxen could plough in a year. Earby was then part of the Manor of Thornton and remained for centuries the smaller and less important village. The Manor House was at Thornton, more or less where the farm stands now and of course the Church was built there in the 13th Century. The Manor House existed until 1644 when it was destroyed by the Royalists under Prince Rupert and never rebuilt. Loyalties in those days were divided; Sir William Lister M.P. who was Lord of the Manor at that time supported the Parliament, while Skipton was a Royalist stronghold. In a skirmish at Thornton soldiers were killed and buried at Thornton and on his way back from Lancashire to Marston Moor the Manor was attacked again and burnt. Later Sir William received compensation from parliament of £1500 for the loss of his property and the loss of his son, killed fighting for Parliament.

Earby remained for many centuries a small hamlet, the houses mainly on the higher ground, the reason being that the beck, without the present restraining walls, would be liable to flood. Thus we find old cottages up Mill Brow, so called because the mill where people took their corn to grind was situated near the waterfall. Also up Stoneybank, Riley Street, Aspen Lane (which is gradually being demolished), and Green End. Riley Street was known as Cattlegate, the road by which people drove their cows for free pasturage on the village green. It is now abbreviated to Catgate and is still called so by old residents.

Other cottages were built along the old road by Bawhead. When I was a child we used to play among the ruins of these houses, but nothing remains now. This road came over from Thornton, across a bridge above the Waterfall, into Mill Brow, along Mill Lane, (now impassable) then across Stoney Bank, along by Moor Hall to Kelbrook and on to Foulridge and Colne. The new road was not finished until 1827 and was a turnpike road with tolls at Foulridge and Thornton until 1879. The old milestone in the Park was formerly on the old road. Welbury Holgate, who took a great interest in local history, found it forming part of a stile and took it to his garden and attached a sundial to it. Later it was brought down to its present place.

The village green was in the centre of the village as it was then, bounded by the stream, Aspen Lane, Riley Street leading to Green End. In 1681 the White Lion Inn was built on the edge of the green, and would do good business when travelling fairs came or local festivals like May Day were held.

The Bull ring was situated opposite what is now Dr. Morrison's surgery. Bull baiting was a common sport in early days. A chain was attached to a ring in the ground, connected to a ring in the Bulls nose and then it was set upon by bull dogs which were noted for their powers of hanging on. The bull defended itself by butting with its head and kicking. It was argued that the bull must be baited to make the meat more tender to eat.

The old tythe barn where people had to take their contributions of grain, eggs, chickens etc. instead of payment of taxes, was where Earlham Terrace now stands because the ground was known as Thurlham Tythe Barn Croft.

Where Rushton Avenue stands and the waste land opposite was once a lake or pond. – hence local name Tranmire derived from Tarn Mere, – both meaning a pond. No wonder the builders had trouble. The foundations slipped and the row was nicknamed Earthquake Row. The trouble seems to have been remedied, but the land around is still swampy.

Earby was fortunate to have a school built at a cost of £100 in 1594 by money subscribed by Mr. Robert Windle. He left money invested to yield £20 per year to pay the School Master. Education was not free, so only few children would attend. In fact for a long period it seems to have fallen into disuse, but with the opening of the railway in 1848, and the first factory in 1839, seems to have flourished again. Education became compulsory in 1872 and at that time Riley Street School was opened. Still children had to pay School Pence (in my parent's time 3d for young children, 4d for older ones). This was quite heavy as they also had to provide their own slates and writing materials. In 1890 School Pence was abolished and School Boards were formed. New Road School was opened in 1896 and was known as the Board School. Since then of course as the population increased other schools were needed – Alder Hill in 1910, Spring Field 1939 and of course you all know what the position is today, only two schools remain in use. Prior to 1872 the majority of children de-

pendent on the Sunday Schools to teach them to read and write, but many went through life unable to do either.

At the beginning of the 19th century we know from the record of payments of Poor Relief, that the people in this district were very poor. This was a nationwide problem due to the aftermath of the Napoleonic War, but made worse by the Enclosures Act. Instead of land being common to all, it began to be enclosed and turned into more compact farms, and people who could afford the land enclosed it with fences and walls. The poor who had hitherto cultivated a strip of land and grazed the odd cow, pig or poultry on common ground were left destitute and either became labourers, tried to eke a living by hand loom weaving or accepted poor relief.

It was at this time when help was most needed that a family called Bracewell came to Earby. They enlarged a house at the top of what is now New Road (then a private carriageway with gates top and bottom) and built the first cotton mill in 1839 on land where Prestons garages now stand. So people turned from agriculture to industry. Later in 1852 they built Victoria Mill for spinning and weaving and from that time Earby began to grow. Rows of houses were built and many bear dates in the 1880's and 1890's. By 1907, when Brook Shed was completed, all the factories were built and all for the manufacture of cotton goods, spinning at first but later just weaving. All, with the exception of Spring Mill, stand near the streams because of the necessity for water for the engines, which were driven by steam. The population increased by leaps and bounds from about 750 in 1743 to 1500 in 1875 and nearly 6000 in 1909 when the Earby Urban District Council was formed. Until about 1884 the Bracewells virtually controlled Earby. As well as the mills they bought up many farms and were indeed the real squires and looked up to as such for the livelihood of most people depended on them. In 1884 there was a disastrous fire at Victoria Mill and they left to live in America but other people continued the cotton industry. Now of course, other industries have taken over and modernised the old buildings and Earby is no longer purely a cotton town.

Until towards the end of the 18th century, the only church was Thornton Church, but at this time people began to be influenced by the non-conformist movements. John Wesley preached in Colne, but to my knowledge never came to Earby, but is said to have visited the Inghamite Chapel in Salterforth.

People, both Methodist and Baptist, began to hold services in private houses, but in 1821 the Baptists built a chapel near Jim Lane, (now called Chapel Square). They baptised people in the stream, which flowed behind the church. Of course, as the population increased, this was too small so in 1860 the present Chapel was built on part of the village green. The Wesleyans also erected their first chapel in 1821 – a large room over two cottages at Stoopes Hill. Access was by a flight of stone steps at the end of the building. In 1840 it was enlarged and the cottages underneath were utilized and half the upper room became a gallery. By 1861 this had also become too small, so a new chapel was built at a cost of £2000 to accommodate 400 people. The old chapel served as a Sunday school till 1872 when the Wesleyan School was built. These buildings were also part of the old green. The old chapel was converted into 3 cottages, which became alms houses. Now all are demolished but the site can still be seen opposite Spring Mill. The social life of the village was centred around the churches. The Parish Church was built in 1909 and before that there was a tin Church

near Armoride.

Bracewells gave money to help build both these churches. They also gave an Institute, which was pulled down to make room for the Coronation Hall and Liberal Club (1911), which is now the county library. They provided a cricket field, which was between their first mill and the stream. They may have been autocratic, but they were certainly responsible for Earby's growth. Thornton has remained a small village because apart from the quarry and a bobbin factory at Booth Bridge, no industries were set up there.

In recent years great changes have taken place in the village and our way of life has changed, but whether all for the better is questionable.

How the interest in local history has grown since Mrs. Carlisle was teaching.

FAMILY HISTORY SEARCHES

ROBERT COOKE

Gordon Wilkinson is researching his family history and has a photograph of a group of his ancestors at Foulridge Station; one of them was the station master.

The picture was taken by Robert Cooke of Earby and Gordon is trying to find out more about the photographer. All we know is from the 1891 census for Earby which relates that Robert Cooke was 32 years old and born in Southsea in Hampshire and was living in Water Street, Earby, profession photographer. He had a son, Richard, aged four, who was living with him and who was born in Leckhampton in Gloucestershire. There is no mention of a wife in the 1891 census.

If you have any information about this Earby photographer please contact Bob Abel.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

We have had an enquirer searching the whereabouts of copies of school photographs spanning the years from the mid 1950s to the late 1960s. The schools concerned are Springfield School, New Road School and Barnoldswick Modern (as West Craven Technology College was then called) and the family name Holland. If you possess such photos or know where they can be found please contact the Editor.

WATSON AND CROWTHER

New member Nigel Cook is researching the Watsons and Crowther families in our area. If you are researching either of these families perhaps you would like to "compare notes" with Nigel.

If so, contact Bob Abel

FAMILY LIFE IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

This was the title of the fascinating talk at the November meeting by Dr Alan Crosby, it was principally one man's story and based upon the diaries of Benjamin Shaw of Dent in Cumbria.

Alan is one of the best known local historians, particularly in the North West. He has many books and articles to his name, including Histories of Lancashire and Cheshire and one of the more recent being "The Landscape History of North West England" published by English Heritage.

He is also the local history contributor to the BBC's "Who do you think you are" magazine.

He is honorary research fellow in history at both Lancaster and Liverpool Universities and he is also called upon to participate in history summer schools and local history seminars. Alan is a freelance historical consultant and well known as a lecturer and tutor in local history

By way of introduction Alan explained how most studies of local history rely upon evidence provided by the middle classes and other types of observers, very rarely is their information to be had from the working classes. This is why the discovery of Benjamin Shaw's diaries, in Lancashire Record Office, was such an important find and prompted not only transcription, but a whole publication [now out of print] on the subject. This is indeed a unique insight into the life of one man through the troubled times of the industrial revolution and well worth a visit to the library to read.

This small hand made journal of some 90 pages written with a home made pen, written in tiny handwriting, is an autobiography of Benjamin Shaw himself and 30 of his extended family. It is packed with names, dates, places, all checked out through parish registers, wills, poor law records and the like that have reinforced his information with astonishing accuracy. It covers all aspects of an enforced move from countryside to town—to survive the prevailing harsh times.

Benjamin was born in 1772 at Dent, son of a handloom weaver and agricultural mechanic, his mother was from Garsdale. The remote area lacked sufficient trade and farming was marginal so when in 1791, on advice from a former Dent man Miles Burton who was recruiting, Benjamin's father had the chance to better himself and moved his family to Dolphinholme to work in a worsted mill. Acquiring child labour was Burton's main objective. What should have been a good move went wrong almost immediately, father losing his job and three of the seven children dying from "mill fever".

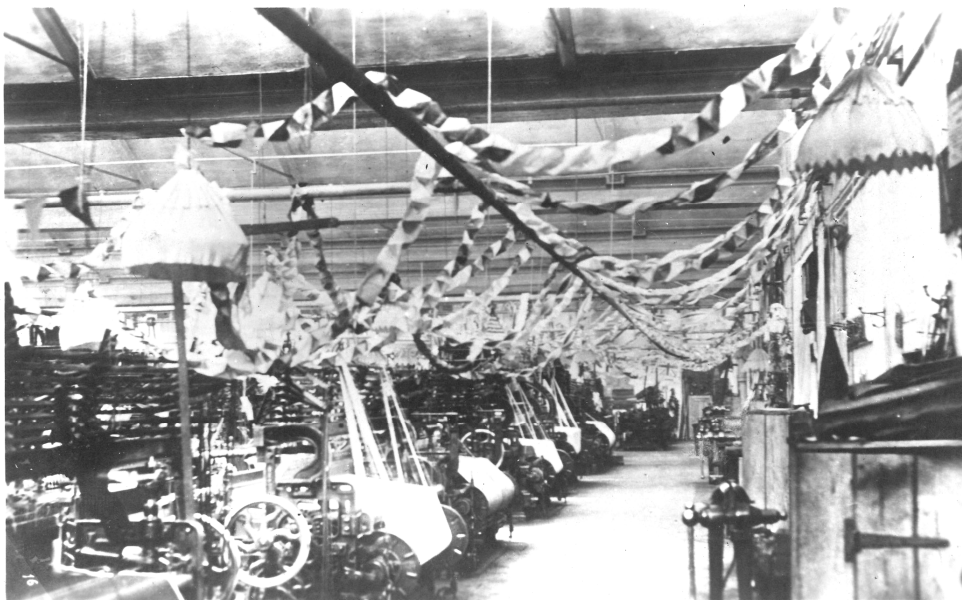
What followed, which Alan described in wonderful if saddening detail, was 35 years of miserable marriage to Betty who, it appeared sometime later, had been unfaithful while Benjamin had been away working. Nevertheless, the two stayed together and raised a family of seven. Eventually securing a position as mill mechanic at Horrock's at Preston, they took a two room back-to-back house at the east end of the town and Benjamin lived there for the next 46 years. It was Betty who had taught him to read and write, she having formerly worked in service where she had needed these skills. His story is one of tragedy, sorrow and heavy burden, similar to that, no doubt, of many others of the time hopelessly trapped in poverty. Betty eventually contracted consumption and died and despite all their

apparent dislike of one another, he was bereft when she died. A second volume to the dairies followed covering the period up to 1836. He died in 1841 and was buried in St Pauls Churchyard in Preston. The diary, which he kept in a tin under his bed, passed through his son to a more wealthy relative who's family in turn deposited it in the Lancashire Record Office. Even then it lay unread for many years until by chance re-discovered by Dr. Alan Crosby who rates this as one of the most unique records of the working classes ever found.

Alan's book is now only available through reference libraries but well worth looking up:

The Family Records of Benjamin Shaw Mechanic of Dent, Dolphinholme and Preston 1772-1841. Edited by Alan Crosby. Published by the Royal Society of Lancashire and Cheshire 1991.

MORE FROM THE SMITH – LAYCOCK COLLECTION



Which of the many mills is this one—can you tell us more about it and the people who worked here

SOCIETY MATTERS—OH YES IT DOES!

As we approach 2009 and the 14th year of our Society some changes may be afoot. The roles taken on by our hardworking committee have increased and developed to such an extent that they need to be redefined and re-allocated. In 2009 for example, we shall be looking in particular for a new programme secretary (the current secretary is taking over the Treasurer role), we need someone to concentrate on publications, another to be mem-

bership secretary, and are desperately seeking an IT officer especially to revise and manage the website as it is difficult for our current managers, due to work pressures and a move abroad, to devote the time they would like to.

These are just some of the tasks. By refining them this should mean there is actually less to do for each individual and if you can give your time please do contact Chairman Bob Abel who himself will be standing down in 2010 after a full 15 years in the top job.

It is difficult to see how realistically we can continue to operate without new blood taking an active role, so for that New Years resolution you might wish to try more involvement with the running of this successful and highly valued local history society.

ALL SAINTS CENTENARY

All Saints Church, Earby, was consecrated in December 1909 which means that 2009 will be the centenary year. To mark the occasion the society is hoping to publish a centenary history of the church and its predecessor the tin tabernacle of 1888.

The research is well on the way and the Society is indebted to the Vicar and Church wardens for access to the church's archives.

If you have any photographs or other memorabilia or stories about All Saints which can be included in the project, please contact Bob Abel.



Our picture above is taken from a postcard postmarked August 1918. How different it looks today with the parish hall extension and the trees.

A 2008 CENTENARY

Another centenary, this time for 2008, is the Earby Weavers Institute building with its date stone 1908.

From its erection in 1908 to its final closure in 1955 the weavers institute played a major part in the social as well as industrial life of Earby.

At the time of its construction there were some 1400 members of the Earby branch of the Colne and District Weavers Association reflecting the textile activity in the town at that time and justifying the branch having its own meeting place.

However the building was also a focus for many social events, one of the earliest (before the First World War and probably before the Earby Empire Cinema was built) being the venue for the travelling cinema companies which toured the country and set up there acetylene arc light projectors.

The Earby Industrial Co-operative Society held many of its functions and whist drives there.

We are told that it was used for Roman Catholic services before St Patricks was opened.

During World War II it was requisitioned by the West Riding County Council for conversion into an emergency dressing station.

Latterly the building is occupied by an engineering company. Time this year has not allowed a full history of the building to be researched but if you have any information about its various uses or photographs, there is a space in the archives for a file. Please contact the Society Archivist.

THE SOCIETY

Meets at the Community Centre, New Road, EARBY on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. (except June, July & August).

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
£5.00
UK £7.00
Overseas £11.00

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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Meetings for the 1st Quarter of 2009

Tuesday 20th January 2009

Barry Atkinson—"Building the Settle Carlisle Railway"

Tuesday 17th February

AGM and Earby Film / Slide Show

Tuesday 17th March

Pamela Maryfield—"Dr. Whittaker and his circle" (Rev. Dr. Thomas Dunham Whitaker was the Author of The History and Antiquities of Craven first published in 1812.)

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND READERS
FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**PRODUCED
& printed**

**by
Earby & District
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.