

# Earby Chronicles



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www.earbyhistory.co.uk

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**SOCIETY AIMS:**  
to raise awareness,  
foster an interest  
and facilitate  
research into the  
heritage of Earby &  
district including  
Thornton in  
Craven, Sough,  
Kelbrook, Harden,  
Hague and  
Salterforth.

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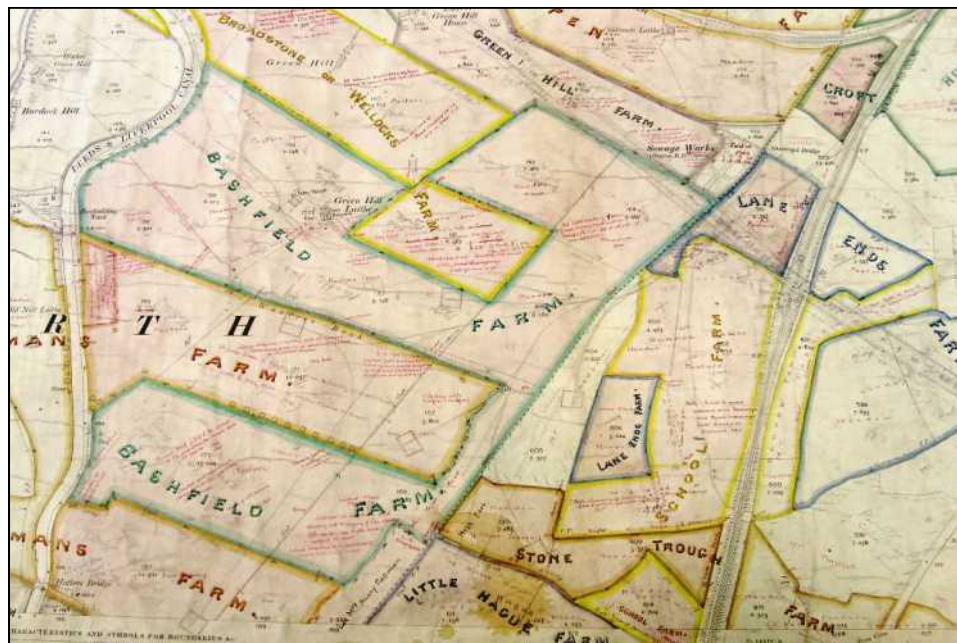
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## FIRST WORLD WAR MUNITIONS STORE SALTERFORTH/KELBROOK BOTTOMS FURTHER BITS AND PIECES FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Editor



Plan of Area Covered by Munitions Store with 1st World War Markings

### 19 Nov. 1915 Craven Herald - Rumours of Muniton Making

For over a week rumours have been current that great developments were shortly to be expected in the district in relation to the war. Whether such gossip should be taken with a grain of salt or in all seriousness one will have to wait and see. One informant has it that an extensive munitions factory is going to be built, another that a munitions storage area is to be put in hand. Another (who came out of Lancashire to apply for work) told of a scheme on behalf of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Com-

#### Recent features

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pany which was about to commence. These rumours and others have been circulated with such gusto, but it is quite safe to say that the land south of the village has been inspected during the past week by Government agents for some purpose or other.

**20 Nov. 1915 Burnley Express - Munitions Store Project**

If the persistent rumours current during the week are verified, interesting developments are likely to be seen in the very near future at Salterforth. The War Office, it is confidently asserted, has selected a site abutting on the canal for the erection of a large store, the scheme involving extensive subsidiary works including the making of a new canal wharf and also a light railway connection with the main line. Definite information is difficult to obtain.

**26 Nov. 1915 Craven Herald - Change at Salterforth, Rumoured Site for Large Munitions Stores**

The war is responsible for many unforeseen eventualities both in the national and local sense. For a generation or more the little village of Salterforth has endured the taunts of its more opulent neighbours, Barnoldswick and Earby, on its lack of railway facilities, though the branch line that connects these two thriving towns runs over the doorstep so to speak. The village with its Quaker traditions, has thus been left behind in the march of events though "Salterforth Setts", the product of the quarries on the steep hillside to the westward are known far and wide. There is also an up-to-date cotton weaving shed which finds employment for a good proportion of the 600 inhabitants. The Leeds and Liverpool canal runs alongside the village and minimises its disability in regard to railway communication.

It is doubtless the presence of the canal and its potentialities as a commercial waterway that has been responsible for the luxurious crop of rumours which have been recently clustered around Salterforth and transformed it – in anticipation – into a colossal storehouse for munitions. For the past fortnight the inhabitants have been kept on the tip-toe of expectation over the mysterious comings and goings of certain learned-looking gentlemen said to have been engaged in surveying the land in the vicinity over an extensive area, and as furtive in their movements as any prospector for gold. The strictest reticence has been observed as to what it all means: even the local agents of the Canal Co. (who were supposed to be primarily affected) could learn nothing definite up to a week ago. Meanwhile Dame Rumour left no stone unturned to improve the occasion, with the result that as each day dawned some new marvel was foisted upon a credulous public.

First the Canal Company were contemplating the building of a new wharf of large dimensions for the Government who had commandeered a fleet of barges; next the Midland Railway Co. were to link up the site with the main line; another day the "lying jade" had extended her vision until it embraced anything from 200 to 300 acres of the adjoining land upon which were to be erected a colony of buildings, the contracts for which had already been let; and lastly that all the occupants of land within the area, including the chief elder of the community, had received orders to quit at short notice.

"Change at Salterforth!" indeed, though of a far more drastic character than that implied in the sentence. If one half of these prognostications are realised Salterforth will soon be a name to conjure with. While it is true that these persistent rumours have provoked a certain amount of ridicule, it has to be admitted that they are not devoid of foundation, although the facts so far as can be ascertained at present fail in some particulars to keep pace with the imagination.

Some colour of authenticity is afforded by the fact that a few days ago an officer in khaki, presumably representing the Minister of Munitions, visited the scene and was in consul-

tation with representatives of the Canal Co. and the Railway Co. Since then the Canal Co's staff have been busy erecting plant on the site of the proposed new wharf some 250 yards on the Foulridge side of Salterforth bridge, while at Sagar's wharf on the Barnoldswick side a further batch of men, with steam-driven machinery on a barge, are engaged in crushing stone from concrete.

While all this tends to give an air of probability to the scheme, those who are sceptical as to the ultimate development must be content to wait and see.

**14 Jan. 1916 Craven Herald - Developments at Salterforth**

There is no longer any room for conjecture as to the aim of the mysterious activities in the neighbourhood of Salterforth which excited so much speculation a few weeks ago. The coming spring and summer will witness a great transformation in the rural scene between Salterforth and Foulridge, where, we understand, the Government have taken over an area of between 300 and 400 acres of land contiguous to the Midland Railway and Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

Already gangs of men are busily engaged at the Salterforth end in the construction of an extensive wharf, as well as a light railway linking up with the main line at Twenty Steps near Kelbrook. A large quantity of rails and sleepers are now on the spot, and it is anticipated that several large sheds for the storage of munitions are to be erected at different points in the vicinity.

**15 January 1916 Burnley News - Important Works at Salterforth**

Works of an extensive nature have commenced at Salterforth (writes our Barnoldswick correspondent), which will have a far-reaching effect upon the prosperity of the village.

**2 May 1917 Yorkshire Post - A Yorkshire Land Compensation Question**

Capt. Albert Smith (Lab. Clitheroe) asked the Minister of Munitions whether any arrangements have been come to with the tenants and landlords at Salterforth with regard to compensation for the land taken over to erect munition sheds, and, if so, when would compensation be paid?

Sir L Worthington Evans (Parliamentary Secretary, Munitions): The claims have been investigated locally and are now under consideration by the Ministry. In the ordinary course the claims would have to be passed to the Defence of the Realm Losses Commission for settlement, but it is hoped by certain arrangements now under discussion to shorten the procedure, so that the matter may be settled more quickly.

**6 July 1918 Burnley Express - To Close a Trust Foulridge**

Mr John Grimshaw at the Crown Hotel Colne... subject to Conditions of Sale, the valuable freehold Property known as Hullet Hall or Owlet Hall situate at Foulridge... 80 acres...as now occupied partly by Mr Albert Edward Warren and partly by the Ministry of Munitions... The farm is situate within easy distance of Foulridge and Barnoldswick, is well supplied with water and the land is extremely fertile...

**7 July 1918 Yorkshire Post - For Sale by Auction**

By direction of the Disposal Board on view this day from 10 to 4pm

At the Salterforth Magazine, Skipton

4 Army Huts

Catalogue may be had on application to the Auctioneers, Lands Lane, Leeds. Oliver, Appleton & Kitchen, Auctioneers.

**23 August 1919 Burnley Express - For Sale by Auction by Mr John Grimshaw at the Crown Hotel Colne**

The residence or dwelling house known as The Cragg situate at Foulridge with stables, coach house, gardens and plantations containing approx. 1 acre now in the occupation of Mrs Ann Walker and also the farm known as Cragg Farm adjoining the residence containing 42 acres now in the occupation of Mr R H Tillotson and the Ministry of Munitions

**23 July 1921 Burnley News - Auction Sales Mr John Grimshaw**

Spennithorne Farm, Salterforth containing 62 acres as occupied partly by Mr Herbert Cowgill and partly by the Ministry of Munitions

**7 July 1922 Nelson Leader - Closing of Footpaths (Rural District Council)**

The Clerk said he had received a letter from the Treasury Solicitors with respect to the Skipton Magazine and the closing of footpaths. The Council gave permission for the temporary closing of certain footpaths in the Foulridge district, and now the Treasury required the seal of the Board to their consent. It was wonderful how particular they were. The consent was given.

**31 March 1925 Yorkshire Post – For Sale**

Timber Built Magazine Buildings 96 ft by 32 ft at HM Skipton Magazine Salterforth. Particulars and price from Alfred Marsden, Salterforth near Colne

**15 Feb. 1946 Barnoldswick and Earby Times – Death of Mr Frederick Pearson (abridged)**

A former well known Salterforth resident died at his home 117 Colne Rd Sough Earby after a long illness. He was 75. Born in Bacup, he went to London in his early 20s and for about 12 years worked for a firm of plasterers and moulders in Camden Town.....The building slump of 1914 caused him to leave London for Yorkshire. He made his home in Salterforth obtaining work in the cotton weaving trade in Barnoldswick. During the next four years he was employed in the Salterforth munitions store, afterwards being transferred to war work in London... he leaves two sons and two daughters



Ammunition boxes from Munitions Store bought by Percy Carradice and used to build "Tab" at Salterforth. Left to right Alfred Marsden, John Eastwood, Ishmael King, Percy Carradice, Norman Carradice

## EDWIN FIRTH MEMORIAL CONCERT

Stephanie Carter

In a place called Varennes, north west of Amiens, on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1918, while returning to the trenches, a shell exploded just outside some woods, killing Edwin Firth of the Artist's Rifles and his party. He was 29 years old and acclaimed as arguably the world's finest cornet player.

As previously described in the Chronicles, Edwin Firth was born in Earby in December 1888. Taught to play the cornet by his father, Squire Firth, he soon became known as "The Boy Champion Cornet Player" winning solo contests all over the country. As his fame increased he was billed as "Edwin Firth- Champion Boy Cornetist- Prize Winner and Gold Medallist- A Musical Marvel".



In 1908 he was offered the position as solo cornet with Foden's Motor Works Band, which he joined in 1909. There he was held in the highest esteem as one of England's most accomplished artists. In 1910 the Band won the National Championships.

In memory of their "finest cornet player", 100 years ago to the day, Foden's Band held memorial services at the Elworth and, Sandbach war memorials to honour Edwin. Two memorial centenary concerts were given by the Band in Sandbach School. I was privileged to attend one of these concerts, alongside Edwin's nephew, Squire Firth. The concert included the playing of original recordings of Edwin playing "Cleopatra" and "Pandora". The Band played one of Edwin's own marches "Westward Ho" and gave a tremendous rendering of Sullivan's "The Lost Chord". Perhaps most poignant of all was "Tosti's Goodbye", one of the last pieces played by Edwin with Foden's Band prior to him volunteering to fight for his country. It was played on Edwin's own cornet by solo cornetist Mark Wilkinson, and certainly brought tears to the eyes. The cornet and other memorabilia were on show during the interval.

*Foden's Band proudly presents...*

## Edwin Firth Centenary Memorial Weekend



1st June Elworth Cenotaph 1.30pm  
1st June Sandbach Cenotaph 2.30pm  
1st June Concert Sandbach School Theatre 7.30pm  
3rd June Concert Sandbach School Theatre 2pm



www.fodensband.co.uk



Above—Mark Wilkinson, Principal Cornet Foden's Band and Squire Firth (Nephew of Edwin Firth) with the Cornet played by Edwin Firth

Edwin Firth will be specially remembered by Earby Band and Earby & District Local History Society on 7<sup>th</sup> October when my latest book on the History of Earby Brass Band will be launched in The Community Centre. (see details Page 18)

### THE MAN IN THE RED TIE

Bob Abel

A report in the Craven Herald of a marriage at Skipton was the start of this story.

"Mr J Watson married Miss E H Halstead of Bentham at Skipton Registry Office". Nothing too remarkable about that except the Mr Watson was described as being known as "The Man in the Red Tie", a well - known Socialist speaker.

Further research revealed that the couple were Joseph Watson and Elizabeth Hannah Halstead. Elizabeth was a daughter of William Halstead, a Bentham farmer. In 1911 she was lodging with the Masseys at 24 Green End Avenue in Earby. She was an elementary school teacher and had presumably come to work at one of Earby's schools.

In 1911 Joseph was living at 4 Garden Street and described as a window cleaner and a widower, born in Preston, therefore Elizabeth was his second wife. The electoral registers suggest that Joseph moved to Earby about 1906/7.



Joseph's first wife was Mary Jane Taylor with whom he had a son Lawrence in 1906, registered at Barnoldswick.

The first reference to Joseph's political career that I have found is in 1909 when he was one of three unsuccessful candidates, officially backed by the Socialist Party, in the elections to the newly created Earby Urban District Council. The other two were T H Brown and W Judd.

Joseph was also secretary of the North Lancashire Union of the National Clarion Cycling Club, a Socialist organisation.

By 1912 Joseph had moved to Green Road in Colne where two sons, Karl (1912) and Joseph William (1914), were born to the second marriage. With Joseph's socialist inclinations one assumes Karl

was named after Karl Marx the socialist revolutionary. Joseph's occupation on Karl's birth certificate is given as insurance agent.

From his obituary we hear that he was one of the pioneers of the Socialist movement, having been a member of the Social Democratic Federation (SDF) for the greater part of his life and at one time he fought Carry Bridge Ward as a candidate for the SDF.

Joseph was also the election agent in Colne for the British Socialist Party candidate John Patterson in the municipal elections in November 1912. The British Socialist Party was set up in 1911 with Marxist Revolutionary aims and some of its membership merged with other socialist parties in 1920 to form the British Communist Party.

Evidence of Joseph as a Socialist speaker is seen from newspaper articles in the Burnley press. In 1912 he was arrested for obstruction in Colne during an election meeting held by the British Socialist Party in support of their candidate John Patterson. The subsequent Police Court Proceedings in Colne were reported in the Burnley Express "... Joseph Watson and John Patterson, both Colne newsagents and well known Socialist speakers in the district... were proceeded against for causing a street obstruction by holding a meeting in a public street ... Watson was standing on a chair in the middle of Market Street... addressing a meeting and the chair was used as a platform... a large crowd began to assemble. Following all the evidence being submitted the Bench retired to consider the case and decided that if the defendants undertook not to hold unauthorised public meetings causing obstruction the case would be dropped with the defendants having to pay costs. Costs were 3s each.

Many socialists were anti-war but it seems that Joseph was certainly not one of these as he joined up just after the outbreak of WW1. His army service record states that he joined the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment at Colne on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1914, 5 weeks after war was declared. His record shows that he had already served one year in the militia 1897/98.

Twelve months after joining up he was sent to France and by 1916 he was back in England in hospital having been wounded and finally discharged as unfit for active service and with a war pension in 1918.

Joseph died in 1936 and his obituary in the Colne Times gives us more information about him.

Joseph had set up in business as a herbalist, having two shops, one in West Street Colne and the other in Railway Street, Nelson.

“Mr Watson was a well - known figure in Colne and District. He was one of the pioneers of the Socialist movement... For many years the deceased gentleman was a frequent correspondent to the press in North East Lancashire and many letters from his pen had appeared in our columns... He was a fearless advocate of the views he held in regard to political matters and often had keen controversies with other writers in the “Times”.

He was a keen student of political and social subjects and in religion he had been for a considerable time an ardent Spiritualist.”

## **EARBY 50 YEARS AGO – 1968**

Information from the Craven Herald

July

Described as “the doyen of Earby bandsmen”, Harry Turner died aged 90

August

Earby All Saints Church held its annual Field Day

A new industry was set up at Spring Mill. Disused since Booth and Speak ceased production there, it was taken over by Ansleigh Developments Ltd. for yarn processing.

This would be carried out for the upholstery and knitwear industries, and for all kinds of weaving. The firm were recruiting for staff.

The Rev. Harold G Perry, vicar of Earby resigned, and it was reported that he would not be continuing in the full time ministry.

September

At the Kelbrook Young Farmers' Show held at Springfield Infant's School, it was more like ladies day, with girls taking prizes for the championship, reserve championship and awards for best animals in both junior and senior sections. Lynda Guy of Moor Hall Farm and Jean Mawson of Elslack. Leslie and John Dinsdale from Thornton-in-Craven, John Rushton of Elslack and John Heald were also amongst the prize winners.

It was announced that Barry Simmons, currently a curate in Jamaica, was to be the next vicar of Earby.

## **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018**

Digital technology has transformed almost every aspect of our lives in the 20 years since the last Data Protection Act was passed. The new Act came into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May. This Act makes laws fit for the digital age in which an ever increasing amount of data is being processed. It also empowers people to take control of their data.

The Act protects individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by:

- requiring personal data to be processed lawfully and fairly on the basis of the data



subject's consent or another specified basis

- conferring rights on the data subject to obtain information about the processing of personal data and to require inaccurate personal data to be rectified.

The EDLHS data protection policy, i.e. data (member contact details) is stored for administration purposes only and will not be shared with any third party whatsoever.

## HISTORY REPEATED

With the opening of Earby's new library, (see photo Page 16) housed in the New Road Community Centre, we see history repeating itself.

At the turn of the twentieth century there was a library at the Victoria Institute, the predecessor of the Coronation Hall. The Institute closed in 1911 and the library was offered to the recently formed Earby Urban District Council but it wasn't until 1914 that the library was re-housed and opened in New Road School (now the community centre). The library wasn't free as shown by the advert and was run on a mostly voluntary basis. The income had averaged about £10 a year and books had been added regularly until it reached 1,800 volumes. The library remained at New Road until 1931 with Mr E Waddington as librarian except for two years when he was on war service.

(For a full history of Earby's libraries see Earby Chronicles Editions 58 and 59 Autumn and Winter 20)

**Earby Urban  
District Council Library.**  
**New Road Council School, EARBY.**

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**This Library will be open to all residents in the  
Urban District, on FRIDAY EVENINGS,  
COMMENCING OCTOBER 16th, 1914.**

**From 7-30 to 9-30 p.m.**

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**TERMS—**  
**One penny per week per volume will be charged  
towards the upkeep of the Library.**

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**Catalogues of the Books to be had at the Library, 2d each**

The current Coronation Hall (formerly Liberal Club) was due to be sold in July, following a somewhat misleading advertisement in the press. This stated that the building was originally built as a cinema and that it was in Barnoldswick!

## **SALTERFORTH QUARRIES**

Stephanie Carter

The two quarries located on both sides of Salterforth Lane provided stone for paving throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and played an important part in the economic life of the village. The quarry on the north side was run by the Sagar family and the one on the opposite side was originally part of the Park Close Estate and in 1887 was bought by the Salterforth Stone and Brick Company. Both quarries had narrow gauge tramways down to the canal where the stone was loaded on to barges and transported to numerous Lancashire towns.

Quarry work was a dangerous occupation. As reported in the last Chronicles on accidents in Thornton Rock Quarry, similar accidents occurred in the Salterforth Quarries, examples of which, as reported in local newspapers, are seen below:

### **1888 Fatal Quarry Accident**

A fatal quarry accident occurred on Monday afternoon at Salterforth Quarry near Colne. A man names William Isherwood was engaged in putting up some beams for blasting purposes, when about 30 tons of earth gave way and buried him alive. When extricated the unfortunate man was dead. He had only been engaged at the quarry for three weeks.

### **1892 Narrow Escape of Two Men; Critical Condition of Earby Joiner**

An alarming accident, attended with serious results, occurred at the Salterforth stone quarries worked by Messrs. John Sagar & Sons on Saturday forenoon. It appears that recently Messrs. Sagar purchased a small locomotive for the purpose of conveying stone to the canal boats, and a shed was in course of erection in which to lodge the engine. The driver, Joseph Jacques of Gladstone St. Skipton, had entered the shed with the engine in order to ascertain the height, and after backing out, dismounted the engine. Suddenly a gush of wind came and blew the whole of the shed over together with an Earby joiner named Waddington, who was on the roof. In its fall the shed caught Jacques by the legs and held him to the ground with the head over-hanging the quarry; while Waddington was thrown head-long into the quarry – a distance of nearly 40 feet. When extricated it was found that Jacques had sustained a fracture to four ribs, while Waddington's head was badly cut, his system severely shaken, and it is feared that he has also sustained internal injuries. Waddington still lies in a critical condition, while Jacques is not progressing as rapidly as might have been expected.

### **1893 Serious Accident at Salterforth Quarry**

On Wednesday afternoon a serious accident happened at the Salterforth stone quarry, which is worked by the Salterforth Quarry Company. It appears that a workman named James Atkinson of Raikes Rd. Barnoldswick, was engaged with others in removing refuse matter in trucks used for the purpose. Whilst standing on the brake of the truck it left the metals, and in order to save himself Atkinson leaped from the brake and fell a distance of seven or eight yards into the quarry below. The truck also fell into the quarry and overturned on Atkinson's thigh and back, causing serious injuries to the man's spine. He was also seriously bruised and shaken. Dr. Alderton was soon in attendance and Atkinson was after-

wards conveyed to the Burnley hospital.

### **1895 Accident**

A serious accident happened to a young man named Charles Crane (21) at Salterforth quarry on Tuesday morning last. Crane was employed at the crane in the quarry worked by Mr John Sagar. It appears that the lever which actuates the friction motion by which the crane is turned round had been broken, but regardless of this drawback, which necessitated increased care, Crane carelessly moved the lever with his foot, and in so doing was caught in the wheels. Before he could extricate his foot the toes were torn off. He called to the other men and one of them was immediately sent for Dr. Alderton. The injured foot was bandaged up, and the man sent to Burnley hospital. Later accounts state that Crane is not doing very well and that his foot, in all probability, will have to be amputated.

### **1897 Serious Accident at Salterforth Quarry**

On Friday morning a serious accident occurred at Mr Sagar's Salterforth Quarry. It appears that a workman named Fielding Pilkington, a resident of Colne, who had only started work at the quarry that morning, was engaged in removing soil with a barrow, when he slipped and fell into the bottom, a distance of about 40 feet. Dr. Duffin and Messrs. Garratt, Hodgson, Atkinson and Jackson of the St John Ambulance Association, were quickly in attendance and the man was removed to Burnley hospital. His condition yesterday afternoon was regarded as very serious.

### **1897 Accident**

A man names J Caygill met with a rather unfortunate accident at the Salterforth Quarry and Brick Co.'s quarry on Saturday morning, in which he had a narrow escape of losing his life. Caygill was busy baring some stone, when a land-slip occurred, and several hundred-weight of soil came down on him, and completely buried him. Several of the quarry men who were close by were soon busy removing the earth from the top of the unfortunate man, who was quickly set free. The ambulance and doctor were sent for, and Dr. Alderton, upon examining Caygill, found that he had sustained a nasty scalp wound and other injuries, and upon his advice he was conveyed to the Burnley Hospital by Messrs. Thos. Atkinson and Walter Shuttleworth, ambulance men upon the Barnoldswick wheel-litter.

### **1901 Shocking Death at Salterforth Quarry**

On Tuesday afternoon an inquest was held at the Town Hall Barnoldswick on the body of a man named John James Rae, 22 years of age late of Blackburn, but lately residing at Barnoldswick. He was killed whilst following his employment at Mr John Sagar's quarry Salterforth on the previous day, by a fall of earth, and his body was terribly mangled – Evidence of identification was given by Mr James Hancock, brother-in-law of the deceased, who stated that he saw him alive on Tuesday morning. He was perfectly sober although he took drink occasionally – William Marshall, a foreman at the quarry, was next called, and he described how the deceased, whilst working under him, had been under the earth. There were two watchers in addition to himself, and they called out for the deceased to come out when they saw the earth falling, but instead of coming out by taking two steps straight forward, he ran in another direction and seemed to lose his presence of mind. He was caught by the earth and completely buried. It was fully ten minutes before they recovered the body. He had warned the deceased to come out at the side on every occasion he had gone to work for him. At this stage the deputy coroner said he had asked the Inspector of Mines to be present at the inquest but he had not come. The quarry was over 20 feet deep, and on that account it came under the inspection of the mining experts. ..It was decided to adjourn until Wednesday next and to advise the Mining Inspector to attend. Mr John Sagar generously

defrayed the costs of the funeral and provided for the immediate necessities of a wife and family left in very poor circumstances.

**1907 Quarry Accident at Salterforth – Man’s Legs Smashed**

William Watson of Keighley, employed at Salterforth Quarries, was seriously injured on Thursday by a fall of rock. He was pinned to the ground by a mass weighing several tons and his legs were so badly smashed that it is feared both will have to be amputated. He is 54 years of age and married

**1928 Buried under Load of Stones – (Summary) of Inquest of Earby Man’s Terrible Fate at Salterforth Quarry**

Mr A F Sutcliffe and a jury sat over over 2 hours at the Victoria Hospital on Monday investigating the circumstances attending the death of Andrew Wood (45) 2 Brook St. Earby, stone quarry foreman at Salterforth Quarries of Messrs. Sagar & Sons who died at the institution on Thursday last consequent on terrible injuries sustained whilst following his occupation. Mr G Cook H M Inspector of Mines, Leeds was present... Mr Wood had been employed at the quarries for 25 years... Wood told John Halstead of Rushton Ave. Earby that he was going to work the stone crushing machine as the workman who usually worked it had not turned up...A tramway ran from the quarry to the stone crushing machine, the wagons having to travel a distance of half a mile from the quarry to the machine. The wagon was loaded in the quarry and ran along the tramway on a gantry. Before being emptied the wagon was chained to the gantry and warning was then given to the man working the crushing machine below by shouting to him to get clear as a wagon was about to be emptied...The contents of the wagon would then drop 15 feet and Wood’s job would be to fill the crushing machine with the 25-30 cwt of stone emptied. At about 11.30 Halstead was told that Wood was fast. He knocked off the engine belt and went to the spot where the stones had been tipped and saw the right leg, right arm and part of the side of the deceased who was buried under the stone... Mr Edward Sagar was on the spot and deceased was immediately released. Dr’ Bradshaw was sent for and ordered his removal to hospital. Arriving at hospital Wood was unconscious and died within an hour....The only way the accident could have happened was that Wood did not hear the wagon approaching and the man just tipped it without shouting. (There were further detailed examination of witnesses and management before a verdict of Death by Misadventure was returned).

**1929 Unfenced Machinery Court Sequel to Quarry Accident at Salterforth**

John Sagar & Son, quarry owners Salterforth, were fined £10 and costs at Skipton for a breach of the Factory Acts by not having the moving parts of a crane accurately fenced. William Taylforth(19) of Whitehouse Farm Salterforth was working at the crane which was driven by an underground shafting. He was on a platform when he slipped. He put out his hand to save himself and it was caught in some bevelled cog wheels. Three fingers and a thumb were taken off. He was removed to Burnley Infirmary and it was found necessary to amputate his hand. The wheels in question should have been protected by a guard.

**1930 Barnoldswick Sudden Death**

An inquest on William Thompson of Walmsgate, Barnoldswick, who was found dead by his wife at home, was adjourned... Mr Thompson had been employed as a sett dresser at Sagar’s quarry Salterforth for 40 years. He had not been working for four years and had been suffering from silicosis for many years. He had been drawing compensation from the Silicosis Board for four years ...

## WILLIAM WILKINSON – A REMARKABLE LIFE

Research by Stephanie Carter, using the Craven Herald

The above named gentleman died of apoplexy at Morecambe on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1879. He was a native of Earby, and when 18 years of age he enlisted as a private soldier in the Horse Artillery, and volunteered for India. He served 10 years in the troop as a private and non-commissioned officer. He was wounded in the thigh and received the medals for distinguished service in the Sikh Campaign.

One day the colonel of the regiment found him studying higher mathematics, and advised him to take the engineer's examination. He passed this examination and became a warrant officer, after which he joined the Royal Engineers. His scientific knowledge and indomitable energy and perseverance enabled him to rise to the position of Conductor in the Public Work Department in the Punjab. For 20 years he was employed on the Afghan Frontier, making roads, bridges, fortifications, surveying, draining and superintending public works.



On one occasion the Amir (*Emir/Ruler*) of Afghanistan – Sher Ali Khan (left) – spent several days at his house and observed his habits. He gave Mr Wilkinson an excellent portrait of himself, painted on porcelain as a souvenir of his visit. He also paid his host a well-deserved compliment in the following words – ‘I cannot understand why the English are so fond of work. An officer in your rank in my country would do nothing but order his servants about. You seem never so happy as when you are working like a slave’.

During the Indian Mutiny he took charge of about 40 miles of road, and kept the communication open during the whole of that trying period.

He retired from the army in 1869, and resided first at the Priory, Gisburn, (see over) and subsequently at Guiseley, but failing health induced him to remove to Morecambe. He was an upright conscientious man and every inch a soldier.

His funeral was strictly private, the only persons attending being his own family and his executor, Mr J Taylor of Blackpool. A firing party of the Colne Rifles met the cortege at Colne station and guarded the corpse to the grave. He was buried, as he wished, with military honours at Christ Church, Colne on the 16<sup>th</sup> August, aged 58 years.



**The Priory, Gisburn**

The large memorial stone at Christ Church gives the following information:

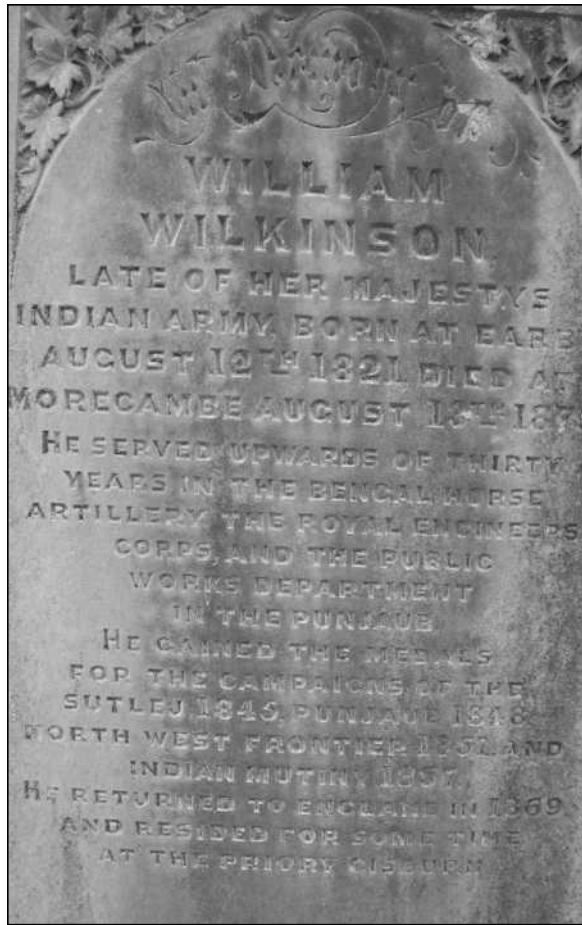
William Wilkinson late of HM Indian Army

Born Earby August 12<sup>th</sup> 1821 died at Morecambe August 13<sup>th</sup> 1879

Served upwards of 30 years in Bengal Horse Artillery, R.E. Corps and Public Works Dept. Punjab

Gained medals for Campaign of Sutlej 1845, Battle of Punjab 1848, North West Frontier 1851 and Indian Mutiny 1857

Returned to England 1869 and resided for some time at the Priory, Gisburn (see over)



William Wilkinson's Grave, Christ Church, Colne

Additional Information:

*William Wilkinson was born in Earby on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1821. His parents, who were Baptists, were John and Mary Wilkinson.*

*The Priory referred to above is a Grade 2 early 19<sup>th</sup> century listed building on Hellifield Road, Gisburn. The 1871 census shows William (aged 49), retired from the Indian Army, living there with wife Martha (32 born in Colne) and son John William (aged 6 born in Burnley). After William's death the family moved to Blackpool, where Martha was described as 'living on her own means' and John William described as 'tobacconist' and later as 'architect'.*

## OPENING OF NEW EARBY LIBRARY NEW ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE



## ALONE AND A LONG WAY FROM HOME Ken Ranson

Thomas Brough was born in Wyrley, Staffordshire in 1861. A grocer by trade, he married Caroline Bailey, 25 years his senior, in 1895. In the 1911 census he was stated as being a chapel keeper, living in Knottingley. His wife Caroline died in 1916 aged 79. Thomas had no children and when aged 54 was left on his own.



## Earby Chronicles



I assume he then volunteered for the army and was in the Royal Defence Corp, and being in Salterforth he would be acting as a guard at the munitions dump at Kelbrook. Thomas died only months after his wife, alone and a long way from home.

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt Of Honour Transcription

<b>First name(s)</b>	T
<b>Last name</b>	Brough
<b>Birth year</b>	-
<b>Death year</b>	1916
<b>Death date</b>	26 Sep 1916
<b>Number</b>	4750
<b>Rank</b>	Private
<b>Unit</b>	No.2 Supply Coy.
<b>Regiment</b>	Royal Defence Corps
<b>Grave reference</b>	In South-East part. (K.21.).
<b>Cemetery or memorial</b>	Salterforth Cemetery
<b>Burial country</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead">https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead</a>
<b>War</b>	First World War, 1914-1918
<b>Record set</b>	Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt Of Honour
<b>Category</b>	Military, armed forces & conflict
<b>Subcategory</b>	First World War
<b>Collections from</b>	Great Britain, UK None

© Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## NOTICE OF BOOK LAUNCH

We extend a warm invitation to you and your friends to attend the New Road Community Centre on the afternoon of Sunday 7th October when the Society will be launching Stephanie's new book on the history of Earby Brass Band.

The Centre will be open from 1.0pm and the actual book launch will take place at 2.0pm.

The Earby Brass Band will perform for us at 3.0pm

Tea and cakes by Jess will be available to round off the event.

There will also be displays on the history of our own Brass Band and a special feature on one of its most famous players, Edwin Firth, who tragically died 100 years ago in the 1st World War. A cornet which would have been played by Edwin, forms part of a private collection of band memorabilia which has never been seen in public before.

The poppy stand and raffle tickets will also be available.

Do come and support this joint effort of Earby and District Local History Society and Earby Brass Band.

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

**ANNUAL  
SUBSCRIPTION**  
£7.00  
UK £9.00  
Overseas £13.00  
If you receive  
Chronicles by e-  
mail £7 fee appli-  
cable worldwide

### 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.

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  
01756 794099

### PROGRAMME

September 18th -A History of the Empire Cinema, Bob Abel

October 7th -Launch of new book "History of Earby Brass Band"

October 16th -Castercliffe Iron Age Hill Fort, David Turner

November 20th -And in Flew Enza – Post WW1 Spanish Flu Epidemic, Tony Foster

December 18th -Christmas meeting TBA

**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.