

Earby Chronicles



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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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EARBY BRASS BAND



The Society hosted a successful launch of Stephanie Carter's new book on the History of Earby Brass Band on Sunday, October 7th in the Community Centre. A large and appreciative crowd, several from out of the district, enjoyed the exhibition of band photographs and other memorabilia and over 60 copies of the new publication were sold. A highlight of the afternoon was a stirring performance by Earby Brass Band, whose leader, Pam Whitehead, had got out of her sick bed to take charge of the proceedings. Refreshments by Jess were also enjoyable and Vera Cocker was in attendance with her excellent poppy stall.



The book is available from the Community Centre on Friday mornings and at EDLHS meetings at a cost of £10; or by post from The Treasurer EDLHS, Lower Burnt Hill Farm, Skipton Old Road, Colne BB8 7ER at a cost of £13.50 ; or contact the Society by email at info@earbyhistory.co.uk

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£2.50
Members of
Society free

HARRY ADDENBROOKE DAVIES

(1897-1990)



Harry was a very special man. He was one of our modest and unassuming heroes who had joined up in 1915 at the age of 18 and luckily returned to Earby at the age of 22. In the intervening years, whilst fighting for king and country, he was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry while serving in France with a trench mortar battery at Ypres. Harry was gassed, sent home to Whalley hospital, and subsequently returned to the front line. As with many of his 1st World War comrades, he was always reticent to speak of his service. On his return to Earby, Harry was presented with a scroll by his employers at Brook Shed (see over) and his name is on the T H Hartley memorial board in the Albion Hall, Earby.

From a Welsh background, Harry was brought up in Thornton-in-Craven. He married Clara Wiseman at the church there and was a weaver, a trade he followed until well into his 70s.



Harry as a schoolboy in 1908; At the seaside with wife Clara Wiseman and niece Anne Wiseman; In the Garden

Harry's first love was cricket and in his youth he looked after the ground at Thornton, also being a useful bowler and treasurer of the club. In his 20s he moved to Earby and his long association with Earby Cricket Club began in 1931 and for over 40 years he carried out his duties as groundsman. The club has had many loyal servants over the years but none more conscientious and modest as Harry Davies. He was a superb groundsman, spending many hours at the club after work on a daily basis throughout the year. The field, square and wickets were always in pristine condition and a myriad of other tasks were carried out by Harry - he always loved anonymity. However, the club showed their appreciation of his work and marked his Golden Wedding with a presentation and organised a testimonial cricket match to honour his faithful service. After his official retirement he was still associated with the club, helping to prepare and maintain the ground and passing on his knowledge to others. He was a regular supporter

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at all the games on the Applegarth until into his 90s. He can be seen in the photo below with two of the young Pickles brothers. His other hobbies included a love of Burnley football club and gardening. All who knew Harry speak of him with the highest regard.



WHERE IS CHAPEL SQUARE? Squire Firth

This question is asked by visitors to Earby who come to seek the burial ground and place of baptism of their ancestors.

Anyone passing a small area of land near the bottom of Red Lion Street would fail to realise that this was one of Earby's most important sites in the early 19th century. It is where the first purpose built place of worship and burial ground of the Earby Baptists was located. The grassed area is where the Chapel once stood and the burial ground is overgrown with a large tree and bushes. It is well documented in Jim Walker's book 'The History of the Earby Baptists'.

In 1820 this plot of land was bought from Hartley Wilkinson for £9.00, being part of a croft formally the estate of James Walton. The plot measured 19½ x 16½ yards an area of 321¼ square yards situated between the Grelpit (Red Lion Street) and Earby Beck, about 50 yards from Keb (Windle) Bridge. The area adjacent to this plot of land (again between the Grelpit and Earby Beck) was a Close of Glebeland belonging to the Rectory of Thornton-in-Craven known as Thirlam Tithe Barn Croft. Here stood the Tithe barn where farmers had to deliver one tenth of their produce for support of the church. Earlham Terrace (now Red Lion Street) was built on this land and Earlham Street which led off the Grelpit became the entrance to the Baptist Chapel.



The photograph above shows the old Chapel and adjoining buildings before demolition. The house on the left was the Minister's residence (adjacent to Red Lion Street). The next two were the original Chapel and past the wall are the two houses of Earlham Street. Careful observation shows the position of the gable end walls of the original Chapel buildings.

The Chapel opened on Good Friday 1821 and measured approximately 7 yards x 12 yards and was positioned to allow the building of a Minister's house adjoining the Chapel at a later date. The remaining land was to become the burial ground and Chapel yard enclosed by a wall and gated from the Grelpit. The Minister's house was built a few years later and a gallery was erected in the Chapel with access to the Minister's house via the attic. At the same time two houses were built adjoining the Chapel (Earlham Street) so the stand-alone Chapel now had dwelling houses at both ends.

Many burials and hundreds of Baptisms took place over the years. Steps down to the beck were built on a vacant area of land adjacent to the Chapel yard and by building a temporary dam, in a few hours, the water would be deep enough for Baptismal immersions.

By 1855 the Chapel was getting too small for the increasing congregation so the trustees decided on a new building to be situated at Kiln Croft (Mount Zion) which was opened in 1861. Permission was granted to remove all the gravestones, and a few graves were exhumed and moved to the new Chapel. These old gravestones can still be seen today.

The old Chapel was now used as the Sunday School for up to 200 pupils, and a day school and Institute. An article in the Craven Herald of March 1876 stated that "The Chapel was used as a Mechanics Institute and doing considerable good among the young men of Earby by keeping them from public houses and providing them with edifying occupation".

In 1877, much to the regret of some of the older members, it was decided to sell the Chapel and burial ground. The area of vacant land with access to the Baptism steps was given to William Crowther on condition that if it was sold the money went to the new Chapel. This area became known as Crowther Yard but is now known as Chapel Square.

The old Chapel, Minister's house and burial ground were finally sold to William Gill in 1878 for £300.00. He came to Earby from Bolton Abbey and was a builder/joiner employing four men and two apprentices. He lived in the Minister's house and converted the Chapel into two dwellings which included two new doorways with steps to the Chapel yard. The burial ground was levelled and the whole area covered in cobble stones. The outside toilets and coal houses were built across the yard facing the Chapel. These three dwellings now became No's 1, 3, and 5 Chapel Square. When the work was completed William Gill moved to 'The Grove', the former home of Dr. Theakston.

In 1887 Elizabeth Lambert of Fern Cottage, Thornton-in-Craven, wife of William Lambert school master bought the three cottages from William Gill paying £130.00 for No. 1 which was now a shop with entrance steps from the Grelpit, and £260.00 for the other two houses (No.3 & No.5). These properties remained in the possession of the Lambert family until sold to Earby UDC for £125.00 on 29th January 1969. The Lambert family never lived in any of these houses which were always let to tenants. The census returns for 1891, 1901 and 1911 name the occupants of these houses.

My interest in Chapel Square started in the mid 1940s when I used to visit a school friend Stan Richardson who lived at No. 3. Stan having lived there for over 25 years has given me a great deal of information regarding the building yard and surroundings. Steps from the Chapel yard led into the large living room with a small kitchen and scullery at the back. The stairs led from the front door to the three bedrooms, two small and one quite large overlooking the yard. A large back door onto Earlham Street may have been an origi-

nal entrance to the Chapel. Outside across the yard were the coal houses and deep drop toilets. No's 3 and 5 had to share one toilet.

The yard was cobbled and separated from the houses on Earlham Street by a very high wall, and gate posts were still at the entrance to the yard. Mr. & Mrs. Daniels lived at No.1 (the shop) and at No.5 lived Mrs. Thornton. Stan never realised that he was living in a building with such an historic past!

It would be fitting for this historic and religious site to have a permanent memorial so that in future no one has to ask 'Where is Chapel Square'?! Anyone wishing to see the Baptism steps should leave Red Lion Street, along Earlham Street, over the footbridge and to the right over the beck, where you will find the steps. Don't forget to respect the privacy of the residents.

BAPTIST CENTENARY AT EARBY
Interesting Reminiscences of Old Earby
(Craven Herald 25th April 1919)

The centenary celebrations of the Baptist cause in Earby have been held this Eastertide, and Mount Zion Church has been the Mecca of a host of the faithful gathered from the surrounding district and further afield. The proceedings were inaugurated on Wednesday of last week by a sale of work in the schoolroom opened by Mr William Smith of Burnley followed in the evening by a concert by the choir. On Thursday public worship was conducted in the afternoon by the Rev. S W Hughes of London, who also lectured in the evening.

A Good Friday Re-Union

To the majority of adherents, however, the most interesting gathering was the re-union of former ministers, scholars and friends held on Good Friday. The Rev. Frank Thompson preached to a large congregation in the afternoon, the service concluding with a united communion service, followed by a public tea and reception. The evening gathering was presided over by Mr C Watson Bailey JP, and many fragrant memories were revived in listening to the various speakers. The choir under the leadership of Mr Levi Turner rendered several anthems in fine style, Mr Ed. Berry officiating at the organ.

The Chairman in his opening remarks said the circumstances under which they met were such as to evoke a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness to God. When he thought of the originators of the church and those who had served it so faithfully during the interim of 100 years, it recalled to his mind what used to be said about bearing testimony – a subject not so much talked about nowadays. Their forefathers did not think themselves of much account unless they could testify to the belief they held, having the root of the matter in them; they did not forbear to talk about it. Though they lived in a very primitive way and had not many luxuries, yet they believed they received many things at the hands of God for which they were thankful. They lived and acted their belief rather than talked about it; they were great in perseverance and endured to the end. Perhaps today we might judge them as rather too serious, but under their rough exterior they had warm soft hearts; their outstanding characteristic was gentleness. Their motto was " Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all things shall be added unto you". That was something we did not sufficiently emphasise today; we were all too much interested in the additions. "It affords me great pleasure to preside here tonight", the Chairman went on, "though I think it would have been better for our old friend Mr Harrison to have been in this position rather than a stripling like me". Remark- ing that he had been renewing acquaintance with many old friends of his youth, the Chair- man concluded by relating several diverting reminiscences.

Fragrant Memories

Rev. Hugh Singleton of Birmingham (son of a former Earby schoolmaster) said though more than 50 years had elapsed since he left Earby as a boy he had never forgotten his early associations with the place, and it was a source of great joy and thankfulness to have the pleasure of being present on that memorable occasion. He had been delighted with the Chairman's kindly reference to his (the speaker's) father, who died last year, and counted it one of the greatest privileges to have been blessed with a father and mother of whom anyone might be proud. Looking back to his childhood days he said he only remembered the interior of the chapel but he had vivid recollections of the "Penny Readings" held on Saturday nights, and the interest with which he looked forward to them. "I remember this place being built", the Rev. gentleman proceeded "and the roof being put on. We used to find it a splendid place for hide-and-seek and one of the remarkable things about it was we were never caught – (laughter) – a great tribute to our youthful slimness. We had grand times, especially in the gallery, with the shavings littered about. I do not remember the opening services (1861) but I do remember – and I say it with deepest gratitude – the infant classes which met herein those far-off days. My teacher was Old Peggy Whitaker. I can see her now in her old poke bonnet which I as a child thought was like a tunnel, and far away in the tunnel, lighting it up, her radiant face and silver hair. She used to lay her hands on our shoulders and bless us. I remember Dr Petty of Barnoldswick one night playing chess with my father, while I sat on the hearth, and the doctor remarking 'I was driving past the Almshouses (Thornton) at 2 o'clock this morning and heard Old Peggy singing the hymn 'I would not change my present state'. The doctor said 'Peggy could not sleep for pain but she could sing' (applause). Peggy was my teacher and I have never forgotten her. She lived in an almshouse crippled with rheumatism and walked with two sticks, but her influence has lain with me and many others during the intervening years. I often think of her as a great and glorious pattern of what Christ can do for the humble. Amongst others who had influence in early life he owed much to Mr Joseph Windle – a man without glitter but pure gold.

Mr H W Green of Skipton said that only 25 years had passed since he left the old place he noted many changes and many familiar faces had gone. They were standing at the door of a new century, leaving the past with its heroic fights and looking towards the future together, bristling with complications and problems. The men and women of whom they had heard that night were pioneers of liberty and progress for which the Baptist denomination had fought throughout its history. To the list of stalwarts' names he added were William Wilkinson, William Heaton, William Edmondson of Kelbrook, Mrs Heaton, Hannah Berry of Salterforth, John Whitaker, William Crowther, Peggy Greenwood, Nathan Watson and others. Though poor in relation to this world, they were rich in the gifts of heaven. They passed through doubts and fears, wrestled with the passions of the natural man and conquered through faith in their Saviour.

The Pluck of our Forefathers

Mr Elihu Wilkinson of Embsay in a humorous reference to the fact that he was "a bawm-caker" (a term well understood among old Earbyites) said someone remarked to him a few days ago upon the number of Wilkinsons in Earby, and asked the speaker "which lot does tha belong to?" "I cannot tell you exactly", Mr Wilkinson replied, "but when I was a lad there were at least four sorts of Wilkinsons in Earby: Dicky's, Nicky's, Bessie's, and t'quart John lot" (laughter) "and everybody who knows me knows I belong to t'quart John lot". Proceeding Mr Wilkinson said he had been impressed with a remark made by Mr Percy Windle a few weeks ago. It was this – "When I look at our chapel and think of the conditions of our people when it was built, I wonder at the pluck and courage they had in those days". The

same point had been emphasised by the preacher that afternoon. That building with its sacred memories and associations was a reminder for him that those who founded it built something more; they built character and although they had passed away their influence still lived.

Presentation of Bibles

At this stage an interesting ceremony took place, namely, the presentation of Bibles to nine of the oldest members of the church. The recipients were as follows : Mrs Ellen Webster 55 years, Mrs James Watson 55 years, Mrs Jane Hopkins 55 years, Mrs Elizabeth Smith 52 years, Mr Elisha Harrison 51 years, Mrs Ellen Higson 48 years, Mr Wilson Green 45 years, Mrs Sarah Jane Hopkinson 45 years, Mrs Sarah Turner 45 years.

After further addresses by two former ministers – Rev C W Townsend (Manchester) and W A Livingstone (London) the Rev. J W Derwent (present pastor) said it was a matter of congratulation that the centenary celebrations synchronised with the peace year. In reference to the glorious history of Mount Zion he claimed that the men and women serving today were just as earnest and devoted as their forefathers. He rejoiced to see many of their young men home again – one of them Mr John Smith had travelled all the way from India – a factor which had helped materially in the success of the reunion. He looked forward to the coming time in the same challenging spirit as those who had gone before, believing that “the best was yet to be”.

On Saturday the sale of work in the schoolroom was re- opened by Mr F J Wilson JP and was followed in the evening by a second concert given by the following artists: Miss Cecilia Farrar (soprano), Mr Herbert Teale (tenor), Mr Foster Richardson (bass), Mr Watson (humourist), and Mr Edwin Berry (accompanist).

Special services were held on Sunday, conducted by Rev. J W Derwent. In the afternoon Hayden’s sublime oratorio “The Creation” was given by the augmented choir and the above mentioned principals. Mr Levi Turner conducted and Mr Edwin Berry was at the organ. The performance as a whole reached a very high standard and was enjoyed by a crowded congregation. Solos by the three principals and a chorus by the choir were also sung at the evening service.

EARBY METHODIST BEGINNINGS

Report in Barnoldswick & Earby Times August 1941

The well-attended Reunion and Floral Festival held at Riley Street during the weekend recalls an interesting ceremony which took place eighty years ago, in July 1861, when the first chapel, adequate to the needs of the Methodist movement in Earby was opened. A chapel had previously been in use, opened in 1821, but this consisted of no more than a large room over two cottages, access to which was gained by a flight of stone steps erected at the end of the building. A Sunday School was started soon after the Chapel was opened, two of the superintendents being Parker Greenwood and Benjamin Emmott. The female teachers we learn from a little book on early Earby Methodism, published by Mr John Hartley some time ago, were attired in check aprons and as very few of the scholars in those days attended a day school, the only bit of learning they got was at the “Old Chapel”.

The new building opened in 1861, provided accommodation for 400 persons. It cost £2,000 and demanded great sacrifice from the early members of the Methodist faith. Collecting books were used to bring in funds, sewing meetings started and the early members – there were about 72 at that time – worked nobly to secure the new building. A revival in

Methodism followed the opening of the Chapel and membership continued to grow year by year until the “golden age” of Methodism was reached in Earby about 1879. The foundations of a nation’s faith as of its greatness are truly laid in individual service and sacrifice.

“REMEMBERING WORLD WAR 1”

A re-creation of the 1928 British Legion Pilgrimage and, also, the “One Hundred Days’ Ceremony”, commemorating the start of the last 100 days of World War I 6th - 10th August 2018, with Leger Travel.

(This is the first part of an article written by Jean Eccles and Dorothy MacInnes. The second part will follow in the Spring Chronicles—Editor)

Our Granddad, Bertie Cowgill, of Earby, was killed on the 16th August 1917 in the Battle of Langemark, one of the battles leading up to the Battle of Passchendaele.

In 1928, his widow, our Grandma, Janey Cowgill, who by then, had a greengrocer’s shop at 67 Victoria Road, Earby, and her son Kenneth Taylor Cowgill, our Dad, who was 12 years old at the time, went on the British Legion Pilgrimage to see Bertie’s name on the “Memorial Wall to the Missing” in Tyne Cot Cemetery near Ypres. 11,000 ex-servicemen and women, family members, widows and children took part in the pilgrimage, which was organised for August 1928, with the parade and commemoration service taking place in Ypres on the 8th August, to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the start of the last one hundred days of the war.

We found, online, a copy of a book, entitled “The British Legion Battle Field Pilgrimage (1928 Book) in co-operation with the British Empire Service League”, which must have been issued to every pilgrim, giving details of their itinerary, event and points of conduct.

The following are extracts from the book -

“They will see the battlefields, but not as they were in the war. Ypres is no longer a dust-heap, but a snug little city of new brick and neat tiles and shining plate glass.”

“A number of Anciens Combatants (the Old Comrades Associations of France and Belgium) have volunteered to attach themselves to each Train Party to assist and guide them in billets and on their visits to the battlefields. All pilgrims are, therefore, asked to show them a proper appreciation of their kindness, by associating with them as much as possible, expressing thanks for their assistance and, above all, by avoiding criticism of the arrangements they have made for the comfort of the Pilgrims. Remember, the same facilities cannot be arranged for all, and, before you leave England, please decide that you will make the best of everything and enjoy your Pilgrimage.

It would be somewhat of an undertaking for most of us to receive into our homes, for three or four days, some complete strangers, unable to speak our language, unfamiliar with our habits and customs, and at a payment barely covering the expense. The Legion asks you to bear in mind the objects of the Pilgrimage, and to refrain from criticism of ways and customs differing from our own.

By three days friendly appreciation of our position as Guests, we can do much for our country.”

The Pilgrims were organised into groups of 500, with one Party Leader, one Deputy Party Leader and one Chief Accommodation Officer, who spoke French. Each Party was

then divided into a number of Companies of about 100 Pilgrims, each Company controlled by one Company Conductor and one Company Accommodation Officer, who spoke French. For transport, the Pilgrims were arranged in Train Parties of 500, to each of which was allotted the letter of its train by which the Party was known and named. Each Pilgrim would have a badge with that letter on it, for wearing throughout the Pilgrimage. The Yorkshire Train Party was allotted the letter "T", and the Companies in that Party were given numbers - e.g. "T3".

Twenty three Parties were billeted in different towns in Belgium and Northern France. The Yorkshire Party, who were the last to leave Britain, were billeted in Ypres and Poperinghe. Train Parties S and T embarked at Harwich and sailed to Zeebrugge - a seven hour crossing. Cabin accommodation was provided on this crossing.

"On disembarkation, each Pilgrim must pass through the Customs House. Each Pilgrim should carry his own baggage and have it unlocked, ready for inspection. Cigarettes, tobacco, matches, spirits and automatic lighters are all dutiable. Usually, small packets - open and in use - are passed free."

The Pilgrims would continue their journey by train and be given details and the address of the person providing the billet, and the meals they would be given at the billet. On arrival at their destination, they would then be escorted to their billets, which are all "within three quarters of a mile of the station, to lessen the fatigue of baggage carrying." The Yorkshire party was very fortunate to be billeted in a Church Army Pilgrims' Hostel, in Ypres, between the railway station and the Market Square.

Visits to the Battlefields were made by special trains and Pilgrims were able to apply beforehand to visit particular cemeteries.

The Pilgrims were given a few "tips" -

"Currency: 1 French Franc = 2d

1 Belgian Franc = 1 and a half pence

Both are subdivided into 100 centimes.

Bring soap with you. It will not normally be provided.

The French and Belgians, as a whole, drink either wine or mineral water. Consequently, the same attention has not been given to their supplies of drinking water as in England.

PILGRIMS ARE EMPHATICALLY RECOMMENDED, ON MEDICAL GROUNDS, NOT TO DRINK UNBOILED WATER.

The foreign police regard the preservation of order as their primary duty.

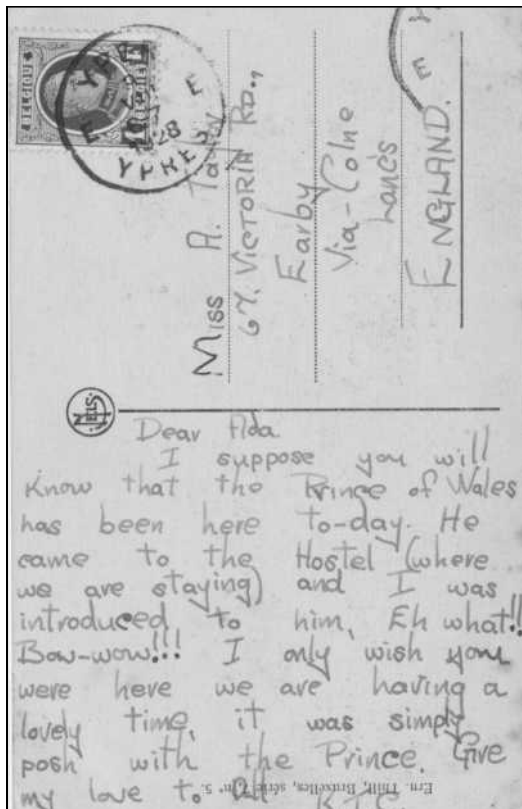
It is not their function to assist all and sundry as in England. They should be treated with the greatest politeness and obeyed immediately."

The Pilgrims would spend two days visiting cemeteries and, on the 8th August, everyone would gather in Ypres for the culminating point of the Pilgrimage - a Service of Commemoration and wreath laying at the Menin Gate. The address was given by the Archbishop of York, and HRH the Prince of Wales took the salute at a March Past after the service.

The necessary arrangements, in order to assemble 11,000 Pilgrims from several different towns by 11 o'clock in the morning must have been complicated, and the Pilgrims were asked to study the details they were given and do their best to comply with them. Those who were billeted outside Ypres were taken to public buildings, such as schools, partially re-built barracks, and the old prison, where breakfast would be provided.

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For their return journey, the Pilgrims were told, "Customs examination at English ports is strict. In particular, tobacco, scent, lace, drugs and many other articles are dutiable."



The above photographs are from Ken's album and show the group at the pilgrim's hostel at the 1928 ceremony; Ken's postcard home in which he tells of his introduction to the Prince of Wales; and Ken standing underneath the name of his father Bertie Cowgill at the Tyne Cot memorial

CINEMA IN EARBY

Bob Abel

An important piece of Earby's social history deals with public entertainments one major element being the arrival of moving picture shows to the town.

At first Itinerant entertainment companies brought a blend of cinema and live entertainment to halls, fairgrounds, village halls or anywhere there was a room which could be darkened. Earby's Victoria Institute, The Coronation Hall and The Weavers Institute were all used as venues for travelling picture shows in the early years of the twentieth century as well as the Earby Feast in July. The earliest reference found for cinema in Earby is in the 6th July 1901 edition of The Era. "Earby Feast ...will have R Layland's Cinematograph..."

The Craven Herald for November 5th 1906 reported: "a travelling company in charge of Mr Oswald Dyke has appeared at the Victoria Institute this week. The principal feature of the entertainment being animated pictures produced by means of the cinematograph. There have been crowded audiences each night."

When the Coronation Hall was built in 1911/12 it too was used and eventually became the Cosy Cinema.

The popularity of cinema was increasing and in 1911 there was sufficient demand to justify the erection of a purpose built cinema in Earby. In November 1911 plans were submitted to Earby Urban District Council (EUDC) by the Barnoldswick Picture Palace Company for a cinema to be built on New Road in Earby. This proposal came to nothing but in 1913 plans were passed for Frederick Siegel to build a cinema at the end of School Lane and the Empire Electric Theatre Palace opened in August 1913. From the name and like most similar operations a mixture of cinema and music hall type entertainment was offered.



Fredrick Siegel was an Austrian immigrant who had already built a cinema in Shipley and was planning one in Ilkley. Many local Earby people invested in the Earby scheme and the Craven Herald reported on the opening that:

"Even Earby has not lost the "picture" craze as was evidenced by the crowds of people who

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attended the performance on Monday night at the new Empire Theatre in Earby under the management of Mr Howe, late of Keighley. The company is styled The Earby Empire Co Ltd and quite a number of the town's people have an interest in it financially. It is a very imposing building and a nightly performance is to be held increasing to two on Saturdays. It is most tastefully decorated and luxuriously furnished."

By 1917 there were three cinemas operating in Earby, The Cosy and the Weavers Institute as well as the Empire.

At first the enterprise was successful but the coming of the World War One had a detrimental effect on Earby's Empire cinema and many other of the smaller enterprises and by 1919 the company went into receivership. The cinema and its assets were sold on and it reopened with Dick Hutchinson from Crosshills being appointed as manager.

The Empire and Cosy Cinemas were now under the same management and in 1927 another change of ownership occurred. James Scrivner took over the two cinemas having previously run the Cinema Picture Hall in Brierfield. Under his management the first talkies came to Earby in the late 1920s but even into the 1930s some live entertainment was featured.

During the heyday of the Earby Operatic Society the Empire hosted the annual performance devoting a whole week to the event.

In 1936 Albert Beaty joined the staff at the Empire as a projectionist and continued his association with the cinema until closure in 1960 by which time he had been promoted to manager. 1938 saw another change in ownership when Scrivner sold out to Matthew Hartley and Sons, based in Barnoldswick, for £5000. They already owned the Majestic and Palace cinemas in Barnoldswick, the Plaza in Skipton and had a part interest in a cinema in Tadcaster. Harry Hartley managed the cinema until 1940 when his brother, Fred, died and he had to take up the reins of the whole business and Tom Cope was appointed as manager at Earby.

During World War Two the Empire was used for showing many public information films about the war and its progress and also for fund raising events for the war effort.

The 1950s saw cinema audiences beginning to dwindle. The popularity of television had the biggest effect particularly when the cost of financing the purchase of a TV set reduced. The writing was on the wall for the Empire and in 1960 the cinema closed its doors for the last time the final film shown being "Follow a Star" starring Norman Wisdom. What was to happen to this iconic building in such a prominent position in the town. Ideas floated including converting it into swimming baths, a retail outlet and even a coal storage depot. Eventually it was purchased as an extension to Wardle Storey's factory.

In 1983, the premises were sold on to Earby Company, Ace Case. but in 1996 a disastrous fire engulfed the building and it had to be demolished. So an iconic edifice that had stood in Earby for over 80 years was no more. Ace Case built a replacement and to remember the old cinema a blue plaque was placed on its successor, Albert Beaty, being the last manager, was guest of honour at its "unveiling".

A book entitled "**The History of Earby's Empire Cinema**" is now available and copies priced at £5 are available from the Archive Room at New Road Community Centre 10-00 to noon on Fridays or by post (add £1-50) can also be ordered from Earby and District Local History Society www.info@earbyhistory.co.uk or call 01282 812599

HISTORIC EARBY HOSTEL READY TO RE-OPEN

Glen Cottage was the home of Katharine Bruce Glasier from 1922 to her death in 1950. Katharine was a founder member of the Independent Labour Party and campaigner for social reform. In her time she was so well known in socialist circles that she became known as the grandmother of the Labour Party.

On her death a fund was started to collect money to provide a permanent memorial to Katharine. Eventually it was decided that, as she had throughout her life campaigned for childrens' causes, her cottage and adjoining properties would be bought and converted into a Youth Hostel. In 1958 the new hostel was officially handed over to the Youth Hostel Association as a permanent memorial to Katharine Bruce Glasier.

However, in 2016, the YHA decided that Earby Youth Hostel did not fit in to its current plans of concentrating on the larger city hostels and in January 2017 it closed its doors. The building subsequently passed into the hands of Earby Town Council which was determined that it should remain as a hostel but on an independent basis. In the latter years of the YHA's occupancy the hostel had been allowed to become run down and ETC set about the refurbishment of the hostel to bring it up to a modern standard.

This summer has been a very busy time at the Earby Hostel and the refurbishment work is now completed. Vera Cocker and Morris Horsfield of Earby Town Council have been working particularly hard, in conjunction with local tradespeople, to modernise and refit the hostel to bring it up to 21st century standards. Some of the main work done is described below but there are also numerous other jobs done which will probably go un-noticed including rewiring.

The hostel now has a warm, light, welcoming look. The central heating system has been upgraded and new log burning stoves installed, one in the cottage and one in the hostel, to give a welcoming glow on the darker nights. New light fittings and bulbs have been installed providing better lighting all round.

The hostel has been redecorated throughout and new carpeting laid downstairs. New bedding has been purchased and new crockery and utensils for the hostel kitchen. Showers and toilets have been replaced in the hostel and a new kitchen and bathroom fitted in the warden's cottage. The warden's cottage has been re-plastered and decorated throughout.

Earby Town Council is now looking to appoint a manager to run the hostel as a self-sustained business and reopening is earmarked for Spring 2019.

There has been an ongoing garden project funded by the Lancashire Environmental Fund with some match funding from the Friends of Earby Hostel to make the large wild garden more accessible for hostel visitors to enjoy. A group called The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) is widening and re surfacing paths, repairing fencing, rebuilding steps, creating a childrens' area, erecting of a green roof shelter, a wild life habitat and a wood store and installing several benches and planting wild flowers and bulbs.

The Friends of Earby Hostel was formed to assist in whatever manner deemed appropriate to ensure the continuing existence of the hostel. One such way the Friends will now help will be to ensure the newly renovated garden will be kept up to scratch.

Earby Chronicles

If you would like to volunteer to help with this please call Bob Abel (Secretary of Friends of Earby Hostel) on 01282 812599 or e-mail friendsearbyhostel@gmail.com



Re-furnished lounge, kitchen and bedroom

EARBY BLACKSMITHS FROM LONG AGO

Research by the Editor

Part 1 James Dodgson (1820-1913)

An edited report from the Craven Herald 5th September 1913

James Dodgson, who had been a blacksmith in Earby for 50 years, died in August 1913. He was approaching his 94th birthday. James came from a family of blacksmiths; his father and grandfather carried on the business as blacksmiths in West Marton and at the early age of 11 Mr Dodgson started working in the smithy. In his boyhood days he used to tramp from Marton to Colne, carrying pieces of cloth woven by his mother and grandmother, who were handloom weavers, to the Cloth Hall which was at that time the centre of the cotton business in the district. The Dodgson family were ardent supporters of the Wesleyan Church for generations, and as he grew to manhood James took a prominent part in church and school work at West Marton, and subsequently at Kelbrook and Earby. He would relate how the first Wesleyan meetings at West Craven used to be held in his grandfather's cottage, as there was no Wesleyan Chapel in the district at that time. When he moved to Kelbrook Mr Dodgson commenced business as a blacksmith on his own account, and married Miss Mary Wilkinson, who was at that time a servant at Kelbrook Vicarage. He afterwards removed to Lane Ends, Earby, about 70 years ago (1840s) and he remained there until he was over 70 years of age.



Of a quiet, retiring nature, Mr Dodgson spent most of his leisure time in his home life and in religious work. In his younger days he was a Sunday School teacher in connection with the Wesleyan Church at Earby and was also society steward when the Barnoldswick and Earby Wesleyan Churches formed part of the Colne circuit. He was a co-worker in the Wesleyan movement with Mr James Brown of Earby.

Mr Dodgson succeeded in establishing a very successful business, which on his re-

tirement 20 years ago was taken over by one of his sons, Alfred Dodgson, who still carries on the business.

BLACKSMITH.—Wanted, a good Shoering and Jobbing Smith; permanent work for a steady man. Apply Alfred Dodgson, Blacksmith, Earby, Colne.

Two more sons are at present blacksmiths, Henry Dodgson of Primet Hill Colne and Jonathan Dodgson of Gargrave. John Dodgson, joiner and undertaker is another son, whilst William Dodgson, who died, had a very successful scholastic career, winning a £300 scholarship in science open to all England, which he took up at Owen's College, Manchester, later becoming a teacher of mathematics.

Mr Dodgson possessed an excellent memory, and he used to relate in homely language stories of happenings in the days of his boyhood. He had a vivid recollection of the Colne Riots, the plug drawing, the cotton famine and the troubles which arose through the introduction of steam-driven looms into the cotton trade. He was also familiar with the legends and customs of the early part of the 19th century, and having lived under six Sovereigns – George 11th, George 1st, William 1st, Queen Victoria, the late King Edward, and the present King – he had seen many changes in the local and national life.

A strong, healthy man all his life, he could never remember having an illness which confined him to his bed prior to the one which resulted in his demise. He was a Liberal in politics but never took an interest in political matters. Mr Dodgson was very well known and highly respected, especially in Wesleyan circles and his death will be deeply regretted by a large circle of friends and relatives. He is survived by 11 children, 28 grand-children and 11 great grand-children. His wife pre-deceased him 14 years ago.

5071007-7/20

<p>Fight INFLUENZA with BRAND'S ESSENCE OF BEEF</p> <p><small>On all Chemists and Grocers.</small></p>	<p>LATE NIGHT SPECIAL</p> <h1 style="font-family: serif;">Evening Standard</h1> <p>No. 29,428. LONDON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1918. ONE PENNY.</p>	<p>Sell your Waste Paper to Lendrum's</p> <p><small>SOLE AGENTS FOR THE WEST OF ENGLAND, LONDONDERRY, LONDON, &c. 8, Temple Avenue, London, E.C.4 Telephone Central 5111 Bank Place, Colne, Preston Collection.</small></p>
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END OF THE WAR

GERMANY SIGNS OUR TERMS & FIGHTING STOPPED AT 11 O'CLOCK TO-DAY.

<p>ALLIES TRIUMPHANT.</p> <p>FOCH AND LLOYD GEORGE TELL NEWS THAT SENT THE WORLD REJOICING.</p> <p>BRITISH BACK AT MONS!</p> <p>The following historic announcement, which means that the world war has come to an end at last, was issued by Mr. Lloyd George to the nation at 10.20 this morning:—</p> <p>"THE ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED AT 5 a.m. THIS MORNING, AND HOSTILITIES ARE TO CEASE ON ALL FRONTS AT 11 a.m. TO-DAY."</p> <p><small>The following message was sent out to-day through the wireless</small></p>	<p>FULL ARMISTICE TERMS</p> <p>EVACUATION TO THE RHINE AND BRIDGEHEADS FOR ALLIES.</p> <p>U-BOATS TO SURRENDER.</p> <p>GUNS HANDED OVER AND BATTLE SHIPS DISARMED.</p> <p>REPATRIATING PRISONERS.</p> <p><small>The terms of the armistice signed by the German plenipotentiaries were read in the House of Commons this afternoon by Mr. Lloyd George.</small></p>
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ACCIDENT IN SALTERFORTH QUARRY

Further to the article in the last edition of the Chronicles, member Stuart Pepper, has told of one Geoff Hardisty who worked in the quarry in the 1960s. On one occasion large blocks of stone had been primed with explosives but the shot had not gone off. Mr Hardisty went to investigate and the delayed shot blinded him. He married a Welsh lady he had never seen due to this disability. They lived on Tubber Hill in a house named Cartref.

EDLHS SUBSCRIPTIONS 2019

Due to an increase in overheads, including postage and printing costs, we regret to have to increase EDLHS subscriptions with effect from January 2019. The committee were given consent by members at the 2018 AGM to review and raise subscriptions as necessary. Subscriptions have only increased by £2 during the last 23 years

Meeting fees remain at £1 (members) and £1.50 (non-members).

Single membership will increase to £10 for local members

Single membership for out of town members will increase to £12

Family membership will increase to £15

E-mail users membership will be £10

We hope you will renew your membership and continue to enjoy the Chronicles, lectures, special events, publications & make use of the archive room.

PROGRAMME

15th January	Transport of Delight, Stuart James
19th February	AGM
19th March	German WW1 POWs in Skipton, Ann Buckley
16th April	Other People's Rubbish, Chris Helme

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

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 applicable 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