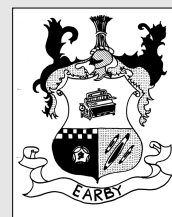


Earby Chronicles

Edition 43

WINTER 2006



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.

OFFICIALS

Chairman :
Bob Abel
phone 01282 843850

Vice Chairman :
Bev Parker
phone 01282 843226

Secretary :
Margaret Brown
phone 01282 843932

Treasurer :
Helen Horner
phone 01282 843850

Programme Secretary
Sue Janion
phone 01282 843992

Liaison Officer:
Trevor Tattersall
phone 01282 842819

Archivist:
Margaret Greenwood
phone 01282 843394

NRCC & Parish Rep:
Lucille Mitchell
phone 01282 841325

Committee:
Squire Firth
phone 01282 817126

Editor :
See back page

£2.00

Members of
Society free

GREENGROCER'S SHOP AT 67 VICTORIA ROAD EARBY

67 Victoria Road Earby was a greengrocer's shop in 1905. In 1909 James Wilkinson was described in an advert as "a wholesale and retail fruit fish and poultry dealer". He also advertised as "English and foreign fruiterer, poultry and rabbit salesman" with "cut flowers and wreaths a speciality". This shop later became known as Taylor and Cowgills and was run by the Cowgill family, a long established Earby family as can be seen below, from 1923 to 1948:-

John Cowgill d 1748 Thornton (carpenter)
Joseph Cowgill b 1713 Thornton (carpenter)
Joseph Cowgill b 1762 Hill Top Earby d 1843 (weaver)
Richard Cowgill 1816-1893 (butcher and beerhouse keeper White Lion)
Bryan Cowgill 1849-1923 m Elizabeth Speak, lived Stoops Hill Earby (weaver)
Bertie Cowgill 1888-1917 m Janey Taylor. Bertie was killed in the Great War
Kenneth Cowgill 1915-1970 m Irene (Renee) Clarke 1940 (greengrocer)
Jean and Dorothy Cowgill

It was Janey Cowgill (widow of Bertie) who bought the shop with her brother Harry Taylor in 1923. Janey's sister Ada and their father Robert Taylor also lived there. It was a two up and two down house, with a bath in the back bedroom, an outside toilet and a kitchen out at the back.

Janey's son Kenneth Taylor Cowgill was born at 13 Highfield Road Earby. As a youngster he was something of an entrepreneur, buying sweets and re selling them in the shop; with the profit buying more. He left school at the age of 14 and went to Preston where an uncle who had two fruit shops taught him all about fruit and flowers. His uncle Harry Taylor left the shop to get married and Ken helped his mother at the age of 16. At the start of the War he worked on the night shift at the Rover factory at Sough, but due to bouts of pneumonia and a bad chest he was allowed to carry on full time with his work in the shop.

In 1940 Kenneth married Renee Clarke; Janey and Ada moved out and they

recent talks & features

- Page 7 Thornton's Roman Road by Trevor Tattersall
Page 9 Hand Milking at Northholme by Stephanie Carter
Page 13 Earby Victims of the First World War by Steve Brown

Fleetwood in a big box and the errand boy would collect it at the station with a truck. During the War customers queued up at 8 o'clock waiting for fish. Cod, haddock, plaice and halibut were popular. Gurnets with boney heads and dabs from Flookborough were also sold. Renee filleted all the fish and the Cowgill family had fish for tea almost every day. Cod sold at 1/8 lb, haddock 1/10 and plaice 2/- .

There were no bananas during the War, but English apples in season came in 40lb boxes. There used to be a box on every step going upstairs; they daren't put them on show, as all wanted priority and they were saved for regular customers. Oranges sold at 12 for 1/- (5p).

Flowers came in on a Wednesday. A salesman from Burnley came round with them. Wreaths and wedding flowers were made up in the shop.

A man from the Southport area came at 7.00 am on Mondays and Thursdays with fresh produce locally grown. This included carrots and onions which sold at 3d per pound, swedes, turnips, cauliflowers, cabbage, celery and potatoes. Parsnips they couldn't sell.

Wholesalers also used to deliver. These included Bentleys and Fishers from Colne and Couthards. Moorhouses from Duke Street in Nelson brought the tinned goods, such as salmon, which had an indefinite sell by date and were good for years.

During the War a shop couldn't be opened without a licence. In 1943 Ken and Renee bought another shop, 14 Water Street. This was a lock up shop, with a lady, Mrs Farnworth, renting rooms at the back. They also bought the licence for Francis Lancaster's greengrocers shop at 7 Victoria Road and took the trade round to Water Street. Renee ran Water Street and Ken Victoria Road. Lancasters remained empty until the soldiers returned from the War and they could then open shops without a licence. Arthur Lee bought it and built up a flourishing greengrocer's shop.

In 1948 Kenneth and Renee decided they wanted a bigger shop and moved to 171 Barkerhouse Road, Nelson. They sold the Water Street shop to Dick Farnworth who had been a prisoner of war in Japan. A later owner was Dick Mason, to be followed by Barretts of S&B Fruits. Val and Harry Morris still trade under the S & B name.

They sold 67 Victoria Road to a couple who had no idea about shop work. After about 12 months they sold it to Morris's who built up the business again and they in turn were followed by Rodney Smith, who ran the greengrocer's shop successfully for over 20 years. It later became and remains a bookmaker's shop.

Stephanie Carter.

ARCHAEOLOGY IS A LOAD OF OLD RUBBISH

Our guest speaker at the September meeting was John Buglass a professional archaeologist based in Harrogate. John was called in originally to keep a watching brief on the work

carried out during the Thornton Church Well restoration project in case any significant archaeology was disturbed. As it happened there was nothing of real note discovered during the ground disturbance phases of the project.

In his talk, John explained that archaeology has many different facets. Some think that it is to do with buried treasure, others with human remains and burials or standing stones. More recently some of the more technically intricate delving into marine archaeology, for example on the Titanic, has become popular. In fact archaeology deals with all these and covers every aspect of human existence. Fossils and the like are normally in the realm of the geologist.

John showed that what the archaeologist recovers from the ground usually is quite literally rubbish which has been discarded by previous generations. This could include broken pottery, a discarded Neolithic fish trap, medieval water pipes which had been replaced by later ones and even abandoned boats which had just been left on the beach to rot.

Archaeology can be found in builders' rubble when old buildings are being rebuilt. John gave the example of a building being converted. When the timbers were ripped out they were discovered to be from the 17th century.

Each and every artefact has its own story to tell.

For the second part of the evening the audience was divided into groups and each group was given a box of archaeological finds and asked to try and identify and date the items, not an easy task for the uninitiated, as was proved.

John then explained that in the case of pottery, the cruder the pottery the older the piece was only a very rough rule of thumb. The use to which the pot was to be put could determine the quality of the piece, a roman ceremonial urn could be of better quality than a 19th century sagger (a container in which pottery was placed for firing in the kiln).

Discarded animal bones had an important story to tell. Techniques of butchery changed through the years and this could be seen from the different marks left on bone fragments. John's example was a cattle bone with a straight sawn edge. Sawing through bone could only be achieved when the technology was available to make suitable saws.

Domesticated cattle have changed through the centuries, through breeding and domestication, from huge prehistoric animals, through the much smaller Saxon beast up to the size we are familiar with today. Therefore the size of the bones gives an idea of the age.

A worked flint or the remains of flint knapping in a non flint area denotes that trading was going on and it is often possible to trace the origin of the flint.

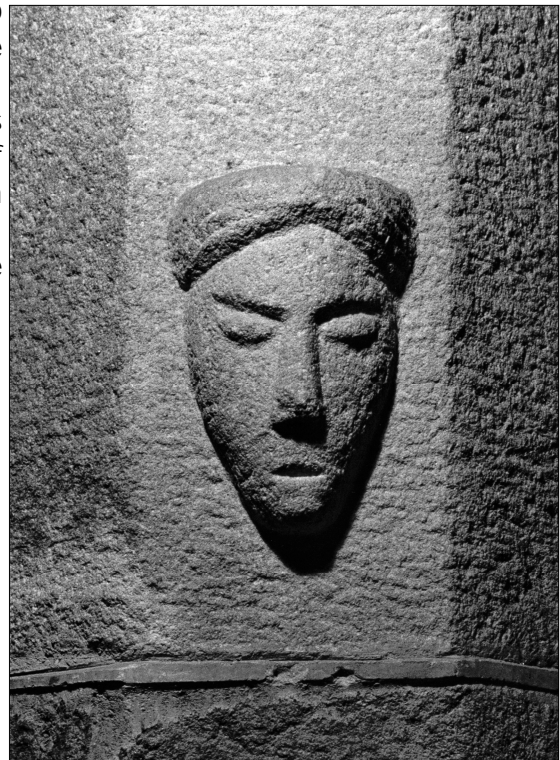
Rubbish can tell a story, John likened it to a piece of a jigsaw puzzle with no picture for

guidance and with some of the pieces having the edges rounded off and a lot of the pieces missing.

For the final part of the evening John talked about his visits to Thornton Church during the well project. John had supervised a dig around the well, before the contractors began their work, to see if any archaeology would be disturbed. Nothing of major significance was found. The stone trough in front of the well is thought to be contemporary with the well building or may even be associated with an earlier structure.

Many fragments of glass and pottery were found which were probably the remains of flower vases. Some discarded pieces of stained glass a few with sections of leading, were uncovered presumably discarded when windows in the church were replaced.

During his visit, John's attention was drawn to other interesting features inside and outside the church including carved heads, heraldic devices, inscriptions and in particular a collection of cross grave slabs. It is estimated that these slabs are of 12th or 13th century origin and are decorated with a cross, standing on Calvary steps, and a sword. They probably denote that a person of some



The Local Heritage Initiative

Is a national grant scheme that helps local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) provides the grant but the scheme is a partnership, administered by the Countryside Agency with additional funding from Nationwide Building Society.



Right is an interesting carving on one of the pillars inside the church

standing was originally buried beneath them.

John's official reports on his visits to Thornton-in-Craven St. Mary's Church are kept at North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Department, County Hall, Northallerton, with copies in the Society's archives, St Mary's Church and the new Local History Section at Earby's Public Library.

MORE REMINISCENCES FROM FLORENCE WRIGHT

Some six months ago, society member Florence Wright suffered a fall and was hospitalised for a good while. Having recovered, Florence has now sent us some more reminiscences of her early life.

When I was 19, I decided to become an unqualified assistant teacher (most infant schools had one such teacher on their staff). I applied for such a post at Appletreewick County Primary School, where I had nine children in my class, (all the children in the Infants Department) ranging in age from 5 to 7+. Mrs Lumb, the headmistress, had about fourteen children – from 7+ to 14 years of age (school leaving age in those days). There were only twenty three children in all the school. Those who passed the Scholarship Examination at 11+ went to Skipton Grammar Schools – Girls' High School for girls, and Ermysted's Grammar School for boys.

Life in the Country

When I first went to Appletreewick, I stayed with a lady called Mrs Chapman. She was a widow, but her niece lived with her. I used to catch a bus on Monday mornings from Earby which connected with another bus which left Skipton at 8 am and went straight through to Skyreholme. I arrived at school about 8.45 am.

There was a paper mill at Skyreholme, owned by Tom Lumb, who also had one in Skipton. His brother, Ben Lumb, was the "boss" at Skyreholme. We made our own hydro electricity – a "cut" having been dug across the field behind the Lumb's house - which was quite a big detached house called "Banquet House". In wet weather water would rush along this "cut", by which enough electricity was generated to supply enough power to run the paper mill, and provide lighting to two houses – Mr Lumb's and his sister's house. In summer when the water was used up in dry weather, all the lights went out, and then we had to resort to paraffin lamps and candles. There was one row of houses (possibly six) in Skyreholme and a few cottages – mostly farmers.

The Lumb's were staunch Methodists and there was a little Methodist Chapel at Howgill – which consisted of just one room up some stone steps. One year when it was their Chapel Anniversary, Burnsall Choir (of which I was a member) sang some anthems and it was a very enjoyable weekend.

I had to walk from Appletreewick "Ap'trick" as it was called (like Barlick) to Skyreholme School every day (about 1 mile) and often met a herd of cows or a flock of sheep. I eventually got quite used to this.

I was never bored living in the country. Monday night was Badminton and Table Tennis night at Burnsall, Tuesday – "BATS" club – B for Burnsall, A for Appletreewick, T for Thorpe, and S for Skyreholme. Wednesday night was singing class at Burnsall. Thursday

evening – church services during Lent (there was a little Anglican Church just going out of “Ap’trick”) and Friday – home!

When I lived in Skyreholme – I was very friendly with Phyllis, Mrs Lumb’s daughter and one lovely sunny evening we climbed straight up to the top of the hill known as “Simon’s seat” – situated opposite their house. How did it get that name? One theory was (so I was told) that long ago some gypsies were passing that way and left a baby there. The baby

was found by called him lovely views reached the as far as probably

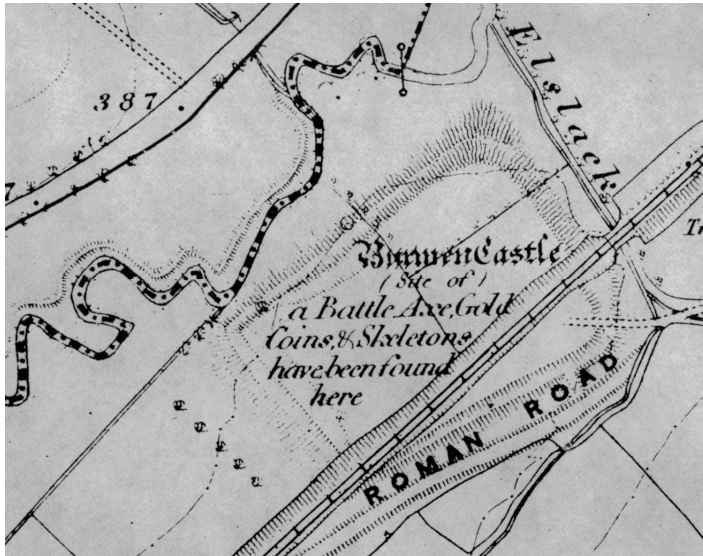
To get to go through hall belonged Milner – Ben friendly with there was a of daffodils invited to pick wanted, and of daffodils. 23 I started Road Infants School in Barnoldswick – I had over forty children in my class and when a teacher was away sick her class was divided between the rest of us. I have had as many as sixty in my class!



Florence (back row extreme right).

a shepherd who Simon. What there were when we top? We could see Harrogate – beyond!

Parcevall Hall, you Skyreholme. This to Sir William Lumb was quite him – and one year field absolutely full and we were as many as we we picked arms full When I was about teaching at Gisburn



Ordnance Survey Sheet 167 First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1853 showing Elslack Fort and the Roman Road

THORNTON IN CRAVEN'S ROMAN ROAD

Trevor Tattersall has had a lifelong interest in our local Roman road. In part 1 of his article Trevor introduces the subject as he writes:-

The archetypal image of an ancient village is of cottages round a village green, with a church, a manor house or castle, an alehouse, and a stream or pond. Thornton is far from a fit to that pattern. It straddles along the course of an old

road which slants across a ridge with low-lying meadows on either side.

Thornton's St Mary's church with its holy well lies at one extremity of the village with another medieval country church at St. Mary le Ghyll a kilometre to the west. Half a kilometre up the slope to the east lies Henry Richardson's rectory and the manor house with a row of almshouses half way between. Two kilometres to the north east of the manor house site along the old road lies the remains of a Roman fort. Another kilometre further on lies Elslack's All Saints Church and rectory, again in open country. It seems plain from this that this Roman road could hold the key to the early development of the area.

It is part of a cross-country route running west from Ribchester - probably the head of navigation on the River Ribble at the time - through the Ribble Gap and via Ilkley to York and Aldborough in the east. It is important to understand that the primary purpose of Roman roads was to allow the rapid movement of military, officials, and couriers about the country rather than the carriage of goods which were probably carried by water.

To understand the purpose of such a road we must first examine the background of the Roman "Conquest" of the north of England. By about 70 AD they had, by a combination of diplomacy and military force, occupied southern and central Britannia as far north as Chester and broken the influence of the Celtic priesthood. The north of Britannia was populated by the Brigantes - a loose federation of hill tribes headed by King Venutius and Queen Cartimandua. Current thinking is that this was a dynastic marriage to unite the eastern and western branches of the tribes and to facilitate a political treaty with Cartimandua. This is thought to have sufficed to keep the north quiet while the Romans conquered North Wales and Anglesey. However, it would appear that the marriage broke down and when Cartimandua handed over Caratacus - the principal anti Roman Celtic rebel - to the Romans, the situation exploded, Venutius attacked Cartimandua, who had to

be rescued by the Romans and northern Britannia was in open revolt.

Military force would therefore be required and was apparently achieved tactically by legionary advances northward on either side of the Pennines - Agricola with the XX Legion on the western side and the Roman governor Petillius Cerialis on the east spearheaded by the IX Legion. In order to maintain contact between the two legionary forces as they advanced a series of east-west roads were required - our road is considered to be one of these.

Having subdued the Brigantes, the emphasis on Roman activity had moved to the Scottish border and our road would probably be little used for another thirty years until severe trouble broke out and the Pennine forts were reactivated. The Brigantes were evidently a rebellious lot and probably needed constant policing to hold in subjection. The Elslack fort (*see map above*) was apparently enlarged and rebuilt in stone and may have been a local centre for policing actions for a considerable part of the Roman occupation of Britannia.

Searches for Roman artefacts in the area have turned up very little of consequence with nothing in Thornton itself. Excavation almost a century ago at Elslack fort produced a bronze coin of Domitian (AD81-96) from the original phase of building, an unworn coin of Constantine I (AD 333-337) from the rebuilt fort and some assorted domestic rubbish.

A recent excavation at Elslack Hall produced a sherd of Samianware in a ditch infill (original source unknown). A coin of Vespasian (AD59-79) was found near Foulridge, allegedly, in 1952 but has since been lost. There are suggestions of a Roman coin found on Brogden Lane and a mosaic pavement found during the Second World War at Rolls Royce's Ghyll Works, but these need further substantiation to be of value. It may be that these limited finds may be commensurate with the infrequent use of the road and sporadic occupation of the fort.

Acknowledgements:

1. Barnoldswick Reference Library, various sources on Ghyll Church and Monkroyd and the excavation report on Elslack Fort Yorkshire Archaeological Journal Vol.21 1911.
2. Tacitus Annals XII.40 Histories III. Cartimandua and Venutius.
3. Shotter, David. Romans and Britain's in the North West of England, 2004.

In the Spring 2007 edition Trevor debates the Roman Road connection with Thornton-in-Craven in more detail.

HAND MILKING AT NORTH HOLME

This is the third of Stephanie Carter's articles about life on North Holme Farm, Earby

Father and Connie did the milking. They started at 6.30 am with 30 cows in two shippens

to milk. It took a good milker 10 minutes on average to milk a cow. Three legged stools and buckets were used. Connie was a good milker, taught by Grandad Shuttleworth, first with one hand, then with the other, then both, using a pint pot for accuracy. He didn't like anything slap-dash. The cow was given a mixture of cow cake, bran and oats in a proven tub. Milkers sat on the right hand side of the cow, started at the front part of the udder and moved to the back. Some of the hazards were swishing tails and kickers.

When a bucket was full it was taken to the cooling house across the yard, and tipped into the sile. This contained two sieves with a milk filter between. From there it ran down into a drum; and from there it went on to the cooler to be cooled. The cooler consisted of metal ridges, like corrugated metal pipes with cold water running through inside. The milk ran outside over this to cool it. Then it ran into a 12 gallon kit. During the blizzards of 1947 a tunnel had to be cut through the snow from the shippon to the cooling house.

Mother was never allowed much milk to use indoors, and she used to go for a jugful when Father wasn't about. We never drank milk as children.

The milk wagon came at 8.30 am from Leeds – previous to this the milk had to be taken to the station in the horse and float and put on the train for Leeds, Bradford, Halifax or Manchester. It would be quite a spectacle to see the floats congregating at the station – they were often late for the train, and they used to gallop their horses, sometimes spilling the milk. Grandad used to swear, "signal's down...Barlick train's come in". It took 2 hours to milk and they were always rushing towards the end. It took longer to milk in summer, as the cows had to be brought in from the fields.

Father used to have a mare, Polly, of which he was truly fond. It would follow if he walked in front and always took the milk to the station – she apparently went down once without kits, turned round and came back. Polly was trapped in the blizzards of 1947 and starved to death at Kayfield at the age of 31. Father was very upset.

After breakfast the shippons had to be cleaned – I well remember us helping to do this as children. In winter this had to be done again before re-starting milking at 4.00 pm. There was the same performance again, but after milking at night had been completed, the cows had to be fothered with hay or kale. It was a tradition that cows were fastened up indoors in booths from the end of October to 12th May. They were fastened with ties or chains, and before the invention and installation of water bowls, had to be led out to the well in the yard to drink. Shippons were hot and steamy places with little ventilation. We always kept a bull in the stall at the bottom of the little shippon, and we were afraid of him.

The first milking machine, a Gascoigne, was installed at North Holme about 1948 and cost £100.

In my childhood days the old ways of life, which had been pursued for centuries, and traditional farming methods, still lingered, but they were soon to vanish altogether with the introduction of machines, as the horse was superseded by tractors on the land. It was a different world then. The workers then seen in the fields have all fled to factories and other

occupations, to be replaced by machines.

NORTH COUNTRY FOLKLORE

A cold wet evening on the 17th of October set the scene perfectly, in the run up to Halloween, for the return of Peter Watson with his tales of Lancashire and Yorkshire witchcraft, magic, superstition and folklore! All fact – no fiction – and plenty to make our members' evening journey back home in the dark an *immntereesting* one!

Peter is a social historian who's work for a degree has developed into a passion for all things superstitious and supernatural. He lectures far and wide and if you didn't get to hear him then do look out for where he's speaking on the subject again.

Superstition, meaning 'I look on in awe' and supernatural beliefs are mainly developments from ancient times when there was no NHS and life was hard for the ordinary folk. To guard against evil spirits and spells, all manner of strange remedies and potions, some based on herbals or just simply 'magic', were passed down through the generations, even today when many are still around. Do you walk under a ladder - would you buy pegs from a gypsy woman, or dare you risk the consequences? On the other hand, would you feed a sickly child with ferrets milk, as Peter asked "have you even tried to milk a ferret?" – this is just one of the many 'old wives' tales that are related to healing.

One of the most interesting items that Peter brought along was a 'witches bottle'. No, not a tonic for witches but a stone jar containing a spell written on parchment with 3 corners cut off, a red heart with three pins stuck in and covered with red cloth bound by a red ribbon, knotted 3 times, and 9 pins stuck into that. What might you ask was that for? It was to ward off evil spells from the person named within. Peter told how someone renovating a very old property found two such bottles in a crevice behind a blocked up fireplace and had asked him what it was and what they should do with it ... Yes, you guessed it, *put it back* ... you never know what might happen if opened!

If like the rest of use you now feel a little spooked, then simply stick a rowan tree branch over the door and no evil spirit will dare to cross your threshold ... we hope!

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY ARCHIVES

1. Skipton-in-Craven in Old Photographs

A recent addition to the archives is a copy of "Around Skipton-in-Craven in Old Photographs" produced by the Friends of Craven Museum and very kindly donated by Councillor Morris Horsfield.

2. Poems and Verse by Lesley Birley Brooks

An interesting addition to the archives is a little book of poems by Lesley Birley Brooks. Donated by Pam Watson (nee Roe), this collection of Poems & Verse was published for

private circulation by Mrs. B. A. Brooks of Finstall, Thornton-in-Craven. It was dedicated by Blanche Brooks "to the memory of all young poets whose lives had been cut short before the fulfilment of their promise". Under the unassuming plain green front cover lies some profound work that is celebrated in the forward by Eleanor S. Ayre of Berkshire. At the age of just ten Lesley Brooks wrote of 'Thornton'.

*Down in the bottom, beneath the hill,
Where in summer the trees lie still,
There's where the ouzels find their rest;
Down in the hollow is Throstle Nest.*

*Where the wood-pigeons make their haunts,
Where the chaffinch nothing daunts,
Where the sun shines bright all day,
Where the flowers have come to stay.*

*Down in the bottom runs a brook,
Winding thro' many a shady nook,
Home of the wild, and home to the free,
This place is also home to me.*

Lesley Birley Brooks was born on New Years day 1916 at Throstle Nest, just three months after her father's death at the Battle of Loos. Eleanor Ayres remarks that "this shock undoubtedly affected her life. She was always delicate as a child and missed a good deal of her education. Being an only child she was, to a large extent, dependant on her own resources to prevent the inevitable loneliness. This led to the early development of gifts of observation and imagination". Apparently she could play music and draw and paint as well. It would be wonderful if locally we were to find some of her artistic work. She did not go on to university, possibly because she had outgrown her strength, (she was over six feet tall at only 13) and had an inferiority complex about her height, or perhaps it was because she did not like to be long away from Craven.

Largely self taught, she read avidly on natural history (including works by Richard Jefferies and W. H. Hudson), theology, philosophy, biology, science, art and much more. In particular she loved Shakespeare and poetry having a collection of almost all the notable poets, ancient and modern. Perhaps her greatest love was for horses – she was an accomplished horsewoman.

During World War II she tried nursing, NFS telephonist duties, ambulance driving, and general help at a military hospital. Poor health caused her to give up each attempt. Finally,

**SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER
Friday 13th April 2007
At Auntie Emily's**

she became a land girl, on a farm near her home but died after a heart attack, brought on by overwork, on 24th March 1943. Condolences were sent by Walter de la Mare who wrote "I feel too that her death is not only a personal loss, but one to poetry and literature". Of her poems he said "They reveal, I think, not only a very definite achievement, but remarkable promise, and the steady progress is perceptible".

We hope that someone will be able to tell us more about Lesley's life in Thornton and perhaps where locally she worked as a land girl?

Of interest to Earby folk, will be the donation by her family to the town of Earby of the Birley playing fields off Mill Brow, still popular with families today.

3. Tales from the Derbyshire Hills; Pastorals from the Peak District

Courtesy of Mrs. Brenda Holmes, the Society's archives now include another of Katherine Bruce Glasier's books : "Tales from the Derbyshire Hills; Pastorals from the Peak District" which was published by the Independent Labour Party in 1907. It was found among the books belonging to the late Gladys Watson, Brenda's sister, who, many members will recall, lived on Stoney Bank Road and taught at Skipton Girls' High School. The Society is very grateful for this contribution to its collection of materials relating to Mrs. Bruce Glasier.

CRAVEN'S PART IN THE GREAT WAR

In 1920, "Craven's Part in the Great War" was published to commemorate those from the Craven area who had given their lives during World War I. It contains photographs and snippets of information about each individual from Craven who died. A copy was distributed to the families of the war dead as well as the survivors.

Craven Community Projects Group, using funding from the Local Heritage Initiative (LHI), have started to expand the information in the book and have set up a web site to make the material more widely accessible.

Bob Abel and Helen Horner represented the Society at the launch of the web site, appropriately on Saturday 11th of November, at Cracoe Village Hall. A large audience was given a brief outline of the project and an introduction to the new web site. The web site is fully searchable and it is relatively easy to seek out information about individuals, particularly if you already have a little information. Other sources of information have been used including contemporary articles in local news papers, information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Soldiers Died 1914 to 1919 first published between 1919 and 1921 and now available on CD ROM.

Most fittingly the event was continued with two minutes silence led by a representative of the Western Front Association and a British Legion bugler and was concluded with a bagpipe and drum performance.



Granville Berry in
Ermysted's Rugby team
1912/3

The project is still continuing and the project group are particularly looking for help from the families and descendants of those war heroes. Many families will have a forebear who was killed in the conflict and there will be much unpublished oral or family history information which could be added. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile project please contact Bob Abel (01282 843850) or contact the project group through the web site www.cpgw.org.uk.

EARBY VICTIMS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR by Steve Brown

Two young Earby men will feature in a forthcoming book about former pupils of Ermysted's Grammar School who died in the Great War. 2nd Lt. Richard Shuttleworth, R.A.F. and 2nd Lt. John 'Granville' Berry. The latter was born on 29th August 1897, the son of a cotton manufacturer, Mr. William Berry of Hawthorne House, Earby.

This is a preview of some of the research being undertaken by Steve Brown, a master at Ermysteds School and will be included in the impending book.

Granville Berry attended Earby Wesleyan Elementary School before moving on to Ermysted's in April 1909 as a 'Day Boy'. Here, he flourished as a good 'all-rounder' - a sportsman, an academic prize-winner and an occasional member of the debating society. Upon leaving Granville took employment at Spring Mill, Earby, where his father was in partnership at 'Bailey, Watson and Berry' cotton manufacturers. He was a highly skilled technician and had won distinction in technical examinations. He furthered his education at Colne Technical School and the Manchester School of Technology.

Granville attested on 9th February 1916, but had to wait until the 4th October before he was mobilised into the 10th Battalion Liverpool Regiment. In the meantime he enlisted with the Manchester University Officer Training Corps (May). He was discharged from the 10th 'Liverpools' on 24th January 1917 and accepted a commission in the West Yorkshire Regiment the very next day, going to France in March 1917.

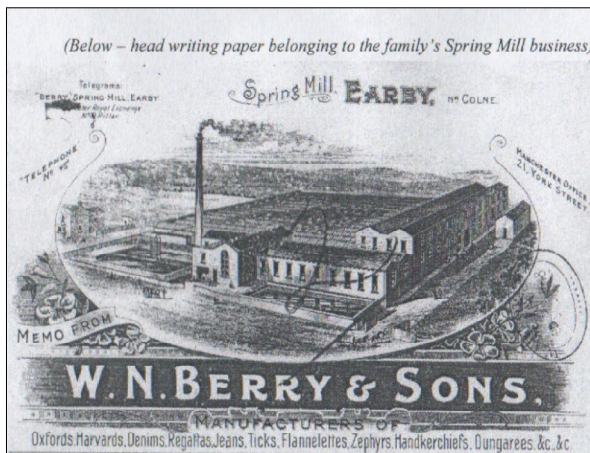
The 2nd West Yorkshires were to see serious action in the early phases of the Third Battle of Ypres, which opened on 31st July, 1917. In what was to be a relatively successful initial attack over a 15-mile front, the 2nd West Yorkshires advanced in a north-easterly direction towards Zonnebeke. It was over the first two days that Berry was awarded his Military Cross. This in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty, taking command of 'C' Company, when his Company Commander had become a casualty, and leading them for two days. According to the citation:

'He displayed most remarkable initiative and determination. He attained all his objectives in the face

of heavy fire, and was repeatedly to the fore in repelling counter-attacks. His personal gallantry won the admiration of all ranks.'

2nd Lt Berry met his death on 16th August, 1917 at the Battle of Langemark, Ypres Salient when his Battalion attacked towards Zonnebeke, east of Ypres. Conditions for the coming attack had been badly affected by the unusually wet first half of August. There had been only one dry day so far in the month – the 7th – and in the preceding two days before the battle 26mm. of rain fell. Despite still being summer, the legendary mud of 'Passchendaele' was already very evident. Attacking at 4.45 a.m., the initial stages went well. By 7.30 a.m. the battalion had reached its objective of the ridge beyond Hannebeke Wood, albeit at considerable cost in casualties. German 'pillboxes', built from reinforced concrete, many feet thick and armed with machine guns, offered serious obstacles to progress.

The Battalion War Diary reported that 'the line by this stage was weak'. At 9.30 a.m. the Germans counter-attacked in strength, pouring over the ridge. The Battalion fell back and established two posts just to the east of Hannebeek Wood, with the remaining troops falling even further back into the Wood itself. This position seems to have been held until 3.30 in the afternoon. By this stage the Germans had got round the right flank of the two outlying posts and the Battalion was forced to retreat to the western side of the Hannebeek Wood. They were virtually back to where they started that morning.



(Below – head writing paper belonging to the family's Spring Mill business)

Witness statements contained in Granville's military service file, at the National Archive [WO 339/73349] provide a fairly convincing case for his survival well into the afternoon's stage of the fighting on the 16th. One statement claims he was shot in the arm but remained with his Company for some time after. There came a point, at about 3.00 p.m., when he was advised to make his way to the R.A.M.C. Dressing Station at the rear; 2nd Lt. Berry duly set off, followed only minutes later by the rest of the battalion to which the order of retreat had been given. The strong

likelihood is that he met his death on his solitary journey back, with nobody there to clearly witness it.

In the confused aftermath 2nd Lt. Berry had to be declared 'Missing in Action' and his Battalion Commander expressed the possibility, to Berry's father, that the Germans may have taken his son prisoner. For the next two years William Berry clung doggedly to the hope, albeit fading, that his son had survived. He was certainly loathed to accept the final official verdict, of November 1919, declaring the officer 'Missing presumed dead', without the necessary conclusive proof.

Granville Berry died a bachelor, still only 19 years of age. 2nd Lt. Berry has no known grave, consequently his name is to be found on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panel 42 to 47. School parties from Ermysted's regularly visit the site and lay a wreath in his memory. His name is also found on the Sough Park War Memorial and, of course, the Ermysted's War Memorial.

An interesting view of Spring Mill taken from a letterhead found in the archives by Steve. William Berry had used the company note paper to write concerning his son.

ENGLISH HISTORY IN NURSERY RHYMES

The guest speaker in November was Alan Harmsworth of Settle speaking about the connection between nursery rhymes and English

PROGRAMME FOR 2007	
16 January 2007	Don McLellan (Yorkshire Vernacular Architecture Society) with "Desirabe 2 unit, direct entry, end stack house, 2 recep. 3 bed..." - you will understand the title by the end of the talk!
20 February 2007	Annual General Meeting and photographs evening
20 March 2007	Christopher Wright with "Glass balls to crystal balls" a light hearted look at the history of anaesthesia
17 April 2007	Ian Dewhirst with "Victorian and Edwardian Leisure"

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.

THE SOCIETY

Meets at the Community Centre, New Road, EARBY on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. (except for outside visits).
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.

and varied, usually

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
Bev Parker
High Gate Farm
Gaylands Lane
Earby
BARNOLDSWICK
BB18 6JR

01282 843226
www.earby.org

said to parody the