

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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ONE HUNDRED DAYS CEREMONY commemorating the start of the last 100 days of WW1

Part 2

Jean Eccles and Dorothy MacInnes

We were very pleased to find that Leger Travel were organising a tour for August 2018, in conjunction with the Royal British Legion, to commemorate the 1928 Pilgrimage.



Ours was a five-day tour, Monday to Friday, with ferry crossings between Dover and Calais and we were very fortunate to be staying at the Novotel Hotel, just off the Market Square in Ypres and only a very short walk to the Menin Gate.

On the Tuesday, with our excellent battlefield guide, we visited bat-

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tlefields and cemeteries in Belgium, in the area around Mons, where the action began for the British in 1914. We visited the St. Symphorien Cemetery, which is a combined German and English cemetery, where some of the earliest casualties of the war are buried, then the Nimy Bridge Battleground, where the first two Victoria Crosses of the War were awarded.

We then drove to the spot, on the outskirts of Mons, where the first and last shots fired by the Allies are commemorated across the road from each other. In the evening, we went to the Menin Gate for the Last Post Ceremony, which takes place every evening at 8.00pm, and has done since November 1929, except for a period during World War II, when Ypres was occupied by the Germans.

On Wednesday morning, Dorothy and I went to Tyne Cot Cemetery to see our Grandad's name on the Memorial Wall and to find the grave of Dorothy's Husband's Uncle.

In the afternoon was the British Legion Procession and Commemoration Ceremony, when over 2,000 British Legion members from the U.K. and overseas (as far away as Hong Kong, Thailand and the Falkland Islands) brought wreaths, with a remembrance message from their communities. They processed, with their wreaths and banners, through the Market Square, where the salute was taken by General the Lord Richards of Herstmonceux, Former Chief of Defence and Deputy Grand President of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, and then along Menenstraat to the Menin Gate, led by the Royal Marine Band of Scotland. A service was held inside the Menin Gate, and was led by the Right Reverend James Newcome (Chaplain of the Royal British Legion), with readings and messages by Ms. Alison Rose (Her Majesty's Ambassador to Belgium) and Archbishop John Sentamu (Archbishop of York). After a lovely rendition of the hymn, "Only Remembered For What We have Done" by singers from the Royal British Legion Band, the service ended with the buglers playing the Last Post and poppies falling from the roof of the Menin Gate during the two minutes' silence. The service was relayed to a large screen in the Market Square, as there is very little room around the Menin Gate for spectators.

After the ceremony, we visited the "In Flanders' Fields Museum", which is housed in the Cloth Hall, in the Market Square, Ypres, after which there was entertainment in the Market Square, with the London Welsh Male Voice Choir, the Royal British Legion Band, the Royal Marine Band of Scotland and a young folk singer, Sam Jefferson, from Cumbria, whose Great-Grandfather fought in the First World War with the Barnsley Pals Battalion.

In the evening, we again went to the Last Post Ceremony, after which, we were able to see all the poppy wreaths that had been laid inside the Menin Gate, by the British Legion Representatives.

On Thursday, we drove into Northern France to the Battlefields of Loos and Fromelles, visiting several cemeteries there, and saw the graves of the Hon. F. Bowes Lyon (the Queen Mother's brother), who was killed on the 27th September 1915, aged 26, and John Kipling (the son of Rudyard Kipling), who was also killed on the 27th September 1915, aged 18.

Our coach made an unscheduled stop at Le Touret Military Cemetery for Dorothy to see the memorial to another of her husband's uncles. By this time, the weather had turned very wet, so, on our return to Ypres, we decided not to go to the Last Post Ceremony again, but we did go onto the ramparts at the Menin Gate to see all the poppy wreaths, which had been taken up there and hung on specially prepared posts, so we managed to get some photos in the pouring rain. The wreaths would remain on the posts until the end of August.



We returned home the following day, after an extremely well-organised, enlightening and emotional journey, following in our Dad's and Grandma's footsteps from 1928, and imagining how they must have felt, when their emotions and memories would still have been very raw.

EX-SERVICE MEN HONOURED IN SEPTEMBER 1919

A pleasant little function took place at the Albion Hall on Friday evening, when the employees of Messrs. T H Hartley Ltd., Brook Shed, met together to do honour to 39 of their fellow workmen who had nobly served their country during the war. Each of these was presented with a framed memento surmounted by the portrait of the recipient. Mr T H Hartley (principal, left) of Lightcliffe, in making the presentation, expressed the pleasure it gave him in being present to do honour to those who had done so much for King and Country. He also presented to Mr Jenkinson (managing director), and Mr Charles Hartley (one of the oldest employees), as trustees for the work people, a handsome memorial tablet containing the firm's roll of honour in memory of those who had made the great sacrifice.



Mr J Moore, in a moving vote of thanks to Mr Hartley, expressed the hope that the gathering might become an annual event, and that Mr Hartley would again honour them by his presence. Mr W Maden, one of the recipients, who seconded the motion, said it was cheering to know that during their absence from home they had not been forgotten. Credit was due to Mr G Eastwood (manager), and his committee of willing workers for raising the money for the memorial and certificates.

The memorial is a beautiful example of the cabinet-makers' art, about 4 ft. in height, and lettered in gold. The names of the four fallen heroes are Private S Butler, Private W Mitchell, Private Hartley Whittaker and Private Albert Thornton. It is to be hung in a suitable position in the warehouse.



After the ceremonial proceedings, the remainder of the evening was spent in music and dancing. Songs were contributed by Mrs Tuley, Miss Wharton (Burnley), Miss A Towers (Barnoldswick), Mr Herbert Lord and Mr Jno. Broughton

Editor: The memorial now hangs in the Albion Hall. An example of the framed mementos presented to the ex-sevicemen was printed in the last Chronicles (Winter 1918). (Names of those who in the time of need came forward in the service of their country and in the defence of the liberties of Europe in the Great War which began in August 1914

** these made the great sacrifice*

Albert Thornton, Hartley Whittaker MM*, Walter Maden, Joe Moore, Harry Hartley, Harry Davis MM, William Wiseman, Tom Broughton, Joe Smith, Alfred Healey, Alfred Lang MM, Frank Duxbury, Richard Wiseman, William A Green, Mason Proctor MM, Fred Forrest, William Halstead, James Waterworth, John Cook, Harry Butler, Sammy Butler*, Willie Mitchell*, James Knight, Willie Astin, George Lister, Jack Utley, Fred Broughton MM, John Broughton, John Priestley, Irvy Ellis, James Waddington, William Wiseman, Wilfred Berry, Edward Harrison, Charles Hewson, Anthony Honey, Fred Pell, James Holmes, Harold Broughton)*

HOLGATE MARSDEN 1845-1915

Ken Ranson



Holgate Marsden and his Wife Mary

Holgate Marsden was born 1845 in Salterforth the eldest of three illegitimate children of Mary Marsden (can we make the assumption the father's name was Holgate?).

Mary married Henry King in 1858 (In 1861 census a boatman).

Holgate grew up and lived in Salterforth all his life and became a renowned figure throughout the district.

Brought up in the Baptist faith, which he adhered to all his life, he regularly attending services, and giving financial support.

The 1861 census sees Holgaste being described as a power-loom weaver, probably in Barnoldswick, Salterforth mill not being built until 1887. He would have to walk to Barnoldswick, by way of the canal being the easiest route.

Holgate married Elizabeth Brown of Colne in 1867. They had eleven children in total, some dying young.

The 1871 census saw him described as a boatman, working in the boatyard he would one day own, with his step-father Henry. This was the start of his rise up the ladder. Using his own boats he formed a carrier service, carrying mainly coal from the pits in Altham near Burnley, for use in the

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mills in Barnoldswick and Earby. The coal would be delivered to the wharves at Salterforth (to be carted to Earby) and then on to Barnoldswick.



His empire expanded still further when, along with others, he formed the Salterforth Stone and Brick Company based at Park Close quarry, Salterforth, in 1887. The 1891 census shows him living at the very imposing house in the middle of the village called The Castle (see over), his profession described as a farmer, which was another string to his bow.



Park Close Quarry with Fanny Grey in Background

As well as being a very busy businessman he found time to take on positions in many public bodies, he being at times, a Guardian of the Poor, a member of the Rural District Council, of the Education Sub Committee, and of the Old Age Pensions Committee.

He made the last move of his life when he went to live in Bashfield farm by the canal and near to his boatyard.



Left The Castle , Right Bashfield Farm Salterforth

Burnley News Saturday, December 25, 1915

OBITUARY

DEATH OF MR HOLGATE MARSDEN-

The death occurred on Wednesday night last of Mr Holgate Marsden, in his 72nd year. Deceased was a notable man in the district, filling many business and public positions. He was in business as a quarry and brick owner, the business being converted into the Salterforth Brick and Stone Company Ltd. He was also a boat builder and owner, doing a big carrying trade between Salterforth, Barnoldswick, and different parts of Lancashire. As a coal merchant he brought a large quantity of steam and other coal from the Altham Collieries, and he was tenant of a large farm at Salterforth, his residence being known as Bashfield House. He was a director of various industrial companies, and the district agent for the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company. His position, shrewdness and common sense qualities marked him out as a fitting representative on public bodies, and for many years he was a Guardian of the Poor, being a regular attender at the Skipton Board of Guardians. He was also a member of the Rural District Council, of the Sub-Education Committee, and of the Old Age Pensions Committee. Brought up from childhood in association with the Baptist Church, Salterforth, he was a faithful adherent to that cause, and a generous supporter. He leaves a widow, one son and five daughters, and the funeral is arranged to take place today (Saturday) at Salterforth Cemetery.



CALENDAR OF PROBATES 1916

MARSDEN Holgate of Salterforth Yorkshire died 22 December 1915 Administration London 29 June to Alfred Marsden his son, coal Merchant. Effects £5162 18s 5d.

WWI INFUENZA PANDEMIC

Bob Abel

Tony Foster gave an excellent talk on the Influenza Pandemic (Spanish Flu) which occurred at the end of World War I. The pandemic struck in three waves in Spring and Autumn of 1918 and again in early 1919. The second wave in the Autumn of 1918 was the most deadly.

It has been estimated that over 50 million deaths occurred as the result of the pandemic, more than were killed in the whole of the war.

This got me thinking what affect the flu had on Earby. In the archives we have some copies of the Minutes of the old Earby Urban District Council which include regular reports from the local Medical Officer of Health (MOH), Dr Alexander Falconer.

MOH report quarter ending June 1918

Severe epidemic of whooping cough reported but no mention of flu.

MOH report quarter ending September 1918

... In July and August there was a severe epidemic of influenza throughout the district. At the commencement the cases were clearly infectious through contact with outside convalescents and in August the epidemic proper arrived and was fairly universal for the whole district.

Many children were affected and New Road County School was closed for 10 days and the whole school disinfected thoroughly with good results. Only one death directly attributable to influenza was noted.

By December 19th 1918 Dr Falconer was reporting

I beg to report for your consideration the prevalence of an acute epidemic of influenza throughout the district.

During the last few days the attendance at the various schools in the district has gradually decreased. Alder Hill School is apparently suffering most, the attendance today being 50% and the other schools are over 25% down.

As the epidemic does not appear to be subsiding I recommend that all schools be closed from Nov 20th to December 1st 1918.

At the same time I would suggest that efforts be made and that no Evening OR Sunday school be opened and that children be excluded from Cinema and other entertainments for the same period.

Closure of day schools was extended to 9th December.

MOH Officers quarterly report Jan 7th 1919

In the early days of November a severe type of Influenza swept through the district. It first attacked school children necessitating temporary closure of schools. No children succumbed to the epidemic but 3 deaths occurred in adults as the result of pneumonia following influenza.

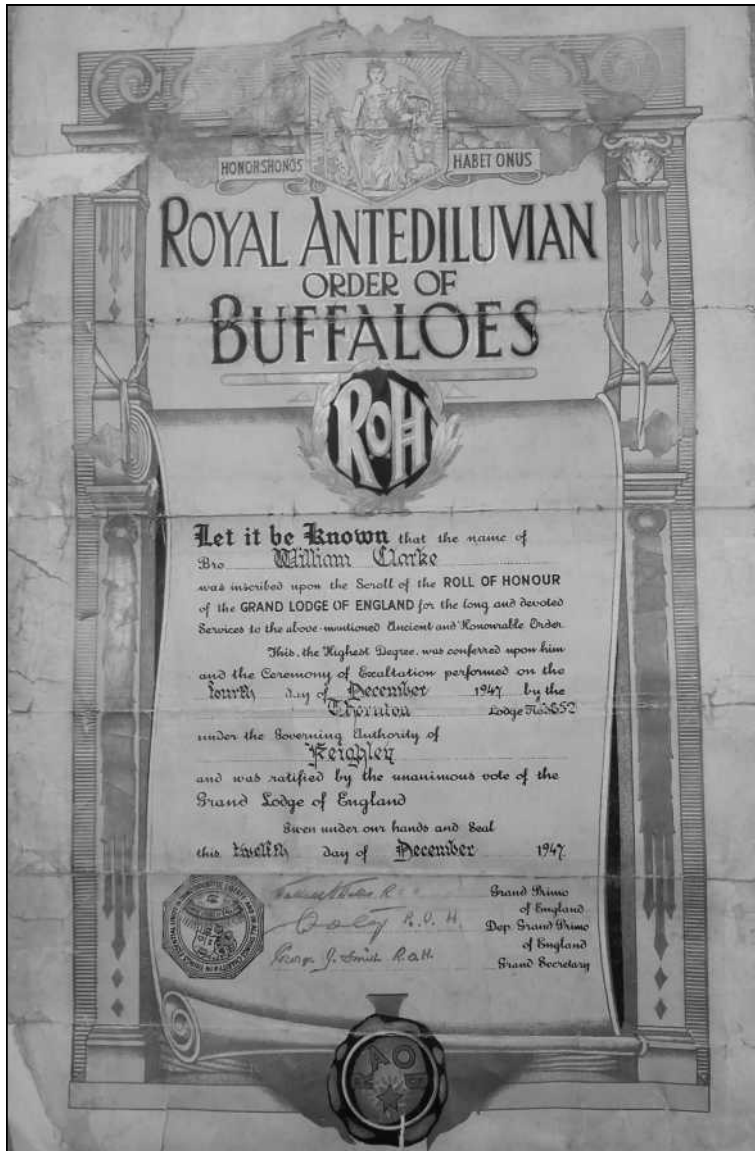
MOH quarterly report April 1st 1919

In the early part of February a severe recurrence of the influenza epidemic took place and many cases were seen up to the end of March. The epidemic was not as severe as its predecessor but the form was similar with many chest cases. Five deaths occurred from pneumonia as a complication of Influenza.

THE BUFFS, THORNTON BRANCH

The group used to meet at the Station Hotel, Earby. The group photos were found in a garage on Wentcliffe Drive and the scroll was donated by Edward Clark. The Society would like to hear from anyone who has any further information.





THREE FOOTBALL STORIES

1. IT WAS HAPPENING IN 1908! HEAVY SENTENCES ON EARBY ENTHUSIASTS (SUPPORTERS OF EARBY VICTORIA FOOTBALL TEAM)

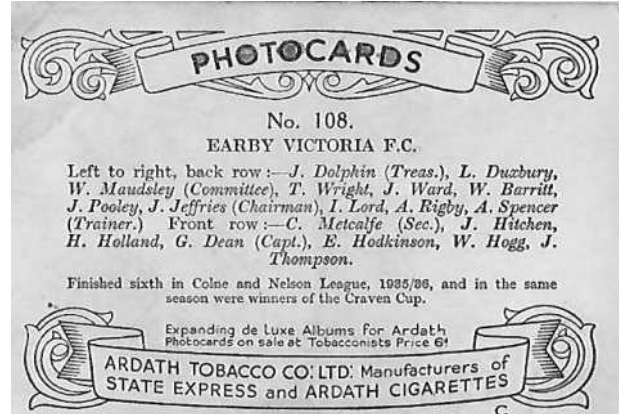
Bradford Daily Telegraph

A meeting of the West Yorkshire Association Commission was held at the Midland Hotel, Skipton, yesterday (*January 1908*), with Mr H Preston of Otley presiding. H Spencer of Earby was suspended for fourteen days for disputing the referee's decision and for swearing. The Earby spectators were reported for encroaching on the field in two cases. One of the players was ordered off for using bad language, and the spectators rushed on the field, and

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Albert Crowther used abusive language. He (*Crowther*) was suspended from all football grounds for the season, and the Earby ground was suspended for three weeks. It was also decided that if the names of the unruly player and of a committee man who refused to furnish the name of a boy who threw stones were not forthcoming the club would be suspended to the end of the season. E Kitson (Cononley), for using abusive language to the referee, was suspended sine die (*indefinitely*) as a player, and warned off all football grounds for the rest of the season.

2. CIGARETTE CARD Donated by Squire Firth



3. INTERESTING 1853 SILVER CUP

Barnoldswick and Earby Times May 1949

Earby's soccer medal competition is noted for a somewhat unusual trophy which will be presented to the winning team to hold for 12 months (in addition to individual cups). It is an elegant silver cup, dated 1853.

Its story, so far as it can be traced, is rather interesting. It was (according to one spectator) first awarded to the late Mr Harry Pickles of Kayfield Farm, who was given the title "The Hamburg King" in recognition of his success with his famous pigeons, which I am

assured were known as Hamburgs.

He gave it to the former Earby United Football Club a good number of years ago, and it was held by the winners of the respective medal competitions. The last team to win the cup were Foulridge – and since the competition lapsed the trophy has been in the keeping of their goalkeeper, Mr A Hargreaves. He has now returned it to the club, who intend to offer it each year as of old, and it will be waiting for the winners tonight.

Harry Pickles won many local and national trophies exhibiting his prize hampburgh poultry. He was known in the poultry world as "The Hampburgh King".— Editor

BLACKSMITH GIVEN NOTICE TO QUIT

Craven Herald 3 August 1979



Not only customers, but many local people have been angered by the news that Earby's blacksmith, whose shop is in the building adjoining Victoria Mill, has been given notice to quit by next March.

The notice has come from solicitors acting for the mill company, owners of the building, but Mr Harry Taylor, the blacksmith who works at the premises, says he has been told by the local agent for the mill company, Mr Eric Thompson, that the notice has come about because Pendle Borough Council are to demolish that building, and part of Victoria Mill, in an environmental improvement scheme.

As we have exclusively reported in the past, Pendle have given the cost of the work at £50,000.

Mr Taylor said this week that he understood the idea was to grass the area over where his smithy now stands. He claimed however that it is the disused upper storey which constitutes the eyesore. That could be taken down and the front of the remaining single storey renovated, and the outside grassed. "Then it would be a feature similar to the old village smithy", Mr Taylor suggested. "Quite often we shoe horses and more often than not have some farm implements about for repair".

And there can be no doubt that the farming fraternity in the district is up in arms about the decision. It was one of them who told our West Craven reporter of the move in the first place and added "It is...ridiculous".

Another old Earby resident, and former Pendle employee, was passing the smithy as our reporter talked to Mr Taylor. "It is time we began a campaign against Pendle. Look", he said, indicating Pendle's own yard opposite, "what could be a bigger eyesore than that, yet they are trying to put a chap out of business? We should do something about it, but people are too apathetic. Pendle are a dead loss; I know, I have worked for them".

And so a skilled craft, established in Earby in 1912 when Mr Taylor's father came out of the Lake District to start in the very building now to be felled, is in danger. In the subsequent years the firm has operated from premises in Back Water Street, now producing ice cream and from Albion Street.

Twenty years ago they returned to the Victoria Mill building, Harry working with his brother Joe, who for the past 18 months has been employed at Armaboard, after going there for a couple of weeks to do a single job. "That's been a good thing for us. There is a lot less industry in Earby than there used to be, and while there is work for one man and an apprentice, or a part-time chap, there was hardly sufficient for the two of us. We have never made a fortune, but we've made a living."

Would they move to alternative premises if they were available? "I really don't know", Harry answered "Moving our type of equipment is a major task, and in any stage in life, I'm not sure. Joe and I will talk it over, but I don't know where we shall find other premises. The expense of moving hardly warrants it".

He went on to say that farmers had asked where they would get the diverse jobs they bring to him, done if he closes. There are few general smithies these days, and he believes the nearest capable of tackling anything is in Accrington. With Harry it might be a welding job on a combined harvester or fixing a pan handle for the young housewife round the corner. At one time of course, shoeing horses was a major job, and though there are more today than there were, it is still only a comparatively small, though enjoyable, part of his work.

"We have just done a fabricating job for a local firm, one of our bigger jobs. We still do work for the textile industry – welding for Johnson and Johnson for instance – but we do a lot of work on farm implements of all sorts, as well as making railings, gates, forging and so on. If we have to close I don't know who will do some of the jobs. We have always tried to keep farmers going. If they are stopped for even a day, it can be serious, but if we aren't there I don't know where they would have to go. It would be a fair distance. Sometimes we make parts to keep them going, and save them having to wait.

We have helped Pendle out on many occasions, shafting shovels, spades and forks for the park's department. That cow trailer over there has a bent axle –I will fettle it later today". Sadly Harry added "Some men came to look round from Pendle and said they believed there was a good foundry round here. That's what they were calling us and they had no idea where our premises were. It's the not caring and not knowing that upsets me. I want people to know what they are trying to do."

LETTER FROM THE CRIMEA

Research by the Editor

The Crimean War was a military conflict fought from October 1853 to February 1856 in which the Russian Empire lost to an alliance of the Ottoman Empire, Britain and Sardinia. In 1854 the allied force attacked the Russian main naval base on the Black Sea at Sevastopol (Sebastopol) on the Crimean peninsula. The Russians counter-attacked at the Battles of Balaclava and Inkerman, at the cost of seriously depleting the British army forces. Sevastopol fell after eleven months. Isolated, Russia sued for peace in March 1856.

The war is known for its Charge of the Light Brigade and for Florence Nightingale, who gained worldwide attention for pioneering modern nursing while treating the wounded.

The 1841 census records a family living in the village of Earby who were to receive a letter from one of their sons, John Shaw, who was fighting with the British army:

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Richard Shaw 70 broom maker
Rebecca Shaw 75
Ann Shaw 45 cotton weaver
Mary Shaw 12 cotton weaver
Richard Shaw 11
John Shaw 9

The 1951 census records the above named boys, John and Richard Shaw, living in the Barracks of Her Majesty's Foot Guards at Croydon, Surrey:

John Shaw aged 18 Private, calico weaver, born Earby
Richard Shaw 20 Private, calico weaver, born Earby

The following letter, reproduced in the Leeds Mercury, was received by John's parents:

Sebastopol, Jan. 22 1855

Dear Friends and Relations – I address these few lines, hoping to find you all in good health, as I am happy to say they leave me at present. Happy, indeed, I am to say it, for this country is very bad for any man to be in. There are a great many of the men cannot say what I can. I thought when I was going from old England I was going to a fine place, but it is quite the reverse, for what with the cold and wet, the men and the horses are dying fast; and as to the roaring of the guns, it is awful and enough to frighten anyone; for we cannot get out to take a bit of a walk but they are firing on us. However, they have not hurt any one of us, and I live in hopes that they will not hurt me. They keep firing on us night and day, and so do the English at them.

We are now in front of the town, but doing nothing at present, nor can we, the weather is so bad.

We cannot get the provisions up for the troops to eat, and in the front we are almost starved to death. We cannot eat the bread, it is so bad; and that is the principal reason we have lost so many men; for they have died with cold and hunger. The water, too, is so bad that we have had to drink. We have got a little better since the battle of Inkerman: we have got a new well, but when we go to it they fire like fury on us. You can't guess what we have to live on, and we have to pay for it. Cheese and butter are 3s 6d per lb., onions 6d per lb., porter 1s 9d per pint, and 2s for 2lbs loaves, and these are not to be got any afternoon.. I am happy to say I had a happy Christmas, according to the country I was in. I now feel that I like old England, and would not care how soon I was back; but you need not think I am frightened of the Russians. I hope that we shall soon get into the town, and get better lodgings. All the cattle are dying like rotten sheep, for they have not got a bit of stable to lie in. We are two or three inches deep in mud, and when we go out far they fire on us if we get near them.

Please to send me, when you write, a few stamps, for a stamp is worth a shilling. My respects to all inspiring friends, I now conclude, having no more to say at present. God bless you all

John Shaw
7th Company 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards

The 1871 census records Richard Shaw aged 44 Private at the Infantry Barracks in Windsor.

**CAN YOU GIVE US ANY INFORMATION ON THIS
EARBY PHOTO?**



Bob Abel purchased it from a postcard dealer in Berlin!

EARBY LONG AGO
In the Building Boom Days
Roguish Children and Fine Chapel Choirs
(Written by John Hartley in Craven Herald 14th February 1936)

I have been favoured (writes 'J H') with some recollections of Earby and the old Wesleyan Day School by two members of the staff 40 years ago (1896). The first contribution is from Miss M E Teasdale, who is spending her retirement in her native town of Pickering, North Yorkshire.

Miss M E Teasdale

It was in October 1894 that I first set foot in Earby. I had obtained an appointment in the Wesleyan Day School, and as the postal address was then "Earby via Leeds", I was dismayed to find that Earby was 30 miles from the latter place. However, I arrived there, and had a right royal welcome.

I was struck at once by the friendliness of the Earby people, and they took me to their hearts at once.

Mr Lindley was the headmaster, and his assistants were Mr Levi Turner, Miss Maggie Greenwood and Miss Alice Whitehead of Carleton. Some time later Mr Turner and Miss

Greenwood got fresh appointments, and Miss Whitehead went to Whitelands Training College, and I believe she had a distinguished career.

Perhaps you will smile, but I thought Earby was a very lively place, as it was simple packed with young people. I had come from a quiet, little market town in North Yorkshire, where there was little employment for young people, who had to go further afield to find work, whereas in this factory village the young folk could find work at home. At the Earby School I made my first acquaintance with half-timers. Half-timers at 11, and full-timers at 13! I can see some of their pale faces now, and I am thankful those days are gone. When I lived in Earby I lodged near a farm at the bottom of Langroyd Lane, and that lane was a perfect nightmare to me on dark nights, excepting when my landlady (Miss Sutcliffe) escorted me with her lantern.

The building boom was just beginning, and a sewage scheme was also in progress, so the roads were in a very bad state. I expect that was the reason why most people wore clogs. I had never seen nor heard of them before, and I wondered if I should ever get used to the noise of the children's clogs, but I did. Once, and only once, I was persuaded to try walking in my landlady's clogs – but never again!

This severe weather reminds me that we had a terrible snowstorm at the beginning of 1895, with frost and ice for at least six weeks. The reservoirs at Foulridge were frozen, and skating became a great pastime. The snowdrift was so bad in Langroyd Lane that we could not get through until a road was cut, and then we had a wall of snow on each side for weeks.

When I went to Earby another thing struck me – that was the unusual Christian names of the people. I remember one family where the children were all names after musicians – Handel, Haydn, Novello, Lloyd and Halle. Another family, their names were Haydn, Lloyd and Jenny Lind; and another, all males, were Jesse, Amos, Darius and Nathan. Then I did not know what was meant by Nat o'Bob's, or Fred o' Bessie's, or Jimmy o' Striker's until my landlady (dear old soul) explained.

What happy times we had at the chapel and Sunday School! I was astonished to find "grown-ups" attending the Sunday School. And what wonderful singing! I soon discovered that what Earby people didn't know about music wasn't worth knowing. They sang choruses from the great oratorios as easily as we at Pickering sang "God save the King". There were some tip-top concerts in those days, and the favourite artists were Edna Thornton, Charles Blagbro' and Dan Billington.

There was really some remarkable talent in Earby at that time (Mr W Hartley, Mr J Foulds, Mr H Curren Smith, Miss Clara Brown, Mrs W Lowcock etc.) and from what I see in the Craven Herald the reputation is still maintained.

How well I remember some of the leaders of the Wesleyan Church – Mr James Brown, Mr James Moorhouse, Mr Lindley (who besides being schoolmaster was the guide, philosopher and friend of all), Mr G P Hartley, Mr Harry Brown, Mr W Pawson, Mr Ralph Pawson, and many others. I think too of the Carlisle family; at least four of them were in the choir. And how well I remember Mr Smith Duxbury and his family! The congregational singing at that time was a real inspiration: I hope it continues to be so.

When I lived in Earby, the only places of worship were the Baptist Chapel, the Wesleyan Chapel and the Iron Church.

Some of my happiest days were spent in Earby. When I visited it last in 1931, I hardly recognised some of the streets. I wonder how many places of worship there are now? I hope they are well attended.

Transcribed by the Editor. The recollections of Miss Whitehead can be found on the website.

SOCIETY REPORT 2018

2018 has seen the Society "ticking over." We were represented at the with the usual round of Spring and Autumn fairs here at NRCC.

A book on the history of the former Empire Cinema has been produced.

The highlight of the year, however, was once more, the book launch. This event has become a regular on the Society calendar and it is easy to take it for granted. A lot of work goes into it not least the huge task of researching and writing the book in the first place which Stephanie does with a steady determination.

We were pleased that the Earby Brass Band was able to take such a prominent part in the proceedings as the book was on the history of the band.

Thanks also are due to your hard working committee who brought the whole event together. Not only does Stephanie work on the books but she also edits the Chronicles which continue to get positive comments. If anyone has any suggestions for content or perhaps would like to contribute items to appear in the Chronicles, Stephanie would be pleased to hear from you.

Thanks also to Wendy Faulkner, our treasurer, who has kept us on the financial straight and narrow for another year.

At the last AGM it was mooted that we may have to increase subscriptions due to ever increasing costs and the committee was given permission by the AGM to review the situation during the year and set subs at an appropriate level.

Unfortunately it has been found necessary to increase subscriptions to £10 for local members with other memberships increasing pro rata. At £10 we are only the same or less than other similar societies but our members have the additional benefit of the quarterly newsletter.

Margaret Brown has continued as our Secretary, organising the committee meetings and receiving correspondence.

New committee member Mick Jackson is taking on some responsibility for the Society web site which we are hoping to update in the not too distant future.

Throughout the year the whole committee has been involved in the opening of the archive room for Friday morning visitors and it is gratifying to see that the archives are used for all sorts of research.

Looking to the future we need some more input into the committee. Both Trevor Tattersall and Margaret Greenwood are reducing their commitment to the committee both having given many years of service.

We are at the stage where committee members are having to double up on jobs and they are also having to reduce their ambitions for the Society.

Please give this some serious thought and if you would like to help out please come forward. Perhaps you would like to come to a committee meeting without making any initial commitments.

A SLEEPY TOWN

By Astrid Middleton

When I was a teenager I dreamt of moving to a city. Somewhere far removed from the sleepy little town of Earby where I had grown up. Teenagers don't really value the importance of community and rolling countryside; luckily I grew up. I did spend a year away at University but being so far away from home wasn't for me. Therefore I returned North, swapping sleepy Earby for almost as sleepy Barnoldswick; both towns hold a special place in my heart.

I grew up on a quiet cul-de-sac in Earby, where my parents still live and I now work in the building (Spring Mill) that I saw from the kitchen window every day for 16 years. Together with my younger sister and brothers I attended Earby County Primary School and was one of the first pupils to be taught in the new building when they knocked down Earby Springfield and Alder Hill and merged them together. I adored my time at primary school and I try and put that love into my role as Chair of Governors at a local primary school.

I have many happy memories of my childhood in Earby, some of which I have tried to Capture in the poem below. Although I now live with my husband and children in Barnoldswick, Earby holds my very first memories of a time when life was so much simpler.

I am grateful that I saw sense and did not move to the city; sleepy towns are far more beautiful than cities and living here has released the poet in me. Not only that but they are far more blind friendly too.

My latest collection of poetry "My Vision In Words" tells of my journey with sight loss and how I became so passionate about writing and poetry. I owe everything to growing up in a sleepy town.

"Earby Holds My Good Times"

Every day I visit the town where I once grew
Seldom do I think about the hometown I once knew...

A walk down Earby, to Neville's for the veg
Onwards to David's butchers; oh my tired little legs

I'd pop a penny in the guide dog that sat out on the street
I'd stand and listen patiently if a friend Mum happened to meet

A cake from Pickles
Supplies from The Co-op
Holding out for the promise of a trip to the sweet shop

In The Wooden Hut we'd go
I can still remember the smell
I would choose white mice and sometimes smarties as well

Life was so much simpler when I was a little girl
Just a walk down Earby with Mum; not a care in the world
Then at the weekend we'd go for a walk with Dad

Playing on the swings by The Waterfalls didn't half make me feel glad

Picnics in the summer
Sledging in the snow
Sometimes I question why it was I have had to grow
I don't walk down Earby now; I just visit Mum and Dad
But I will never lose sight of the good times that we had

Book available from Amazon using the link. <http://getbook.at/MVW>

CRAVEN HERALD MARCH 1897

COMIC CARNIVAL.—On the evening of the 4th inst. a comic carnival was held in the Albion Hall, under the auspices of the Earby Football Club. Several talented artistes took part, including Fred A. A. Pullan, prize alto vocalist and lady impersonator; Mr Harry Stocker, musical negro performer, who also gave selections on the Japanese violin, dulcimer, and fairy bells. Madame Stocker also rendered several songs in good style. Professor Langley, ventriloquist, elocutionist, and comedian, was much appreciated in his wonderful performances. The favourite of the evening was Mr Tom Waddington, of Keighley, described as Yorkshire's greatest humorist, who was encored every time he appeared before the audience. The accompanist was Mr T. Hartley, of Barnoldswick, who also gave a piano solo with much taste.

PROGRAMME

April 15th Other Peoples' Rubbish, Chris Helme

May 21st Rome in Ripon: What stood above the surviving 7th century crypt? Joyce Hill

June, July, August, No meeting

September 17th Pirate of the Caribbean, Ian Lockwood

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

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UK £12.00
Overseas £15.00
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Chronicles by e-
mail £10 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
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