

Earby Chronicles

Edition 103

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Earby War Memorial was unveiled in April 1922 by Mrs Williamson of Albion Road, who lost **three of her four sons in the 1st World War**. The Royal British Legion was founded in May 1921 and the Earby Branch was formed in May 1924.

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 and Salterforth

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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

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EARBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

L E Smith in his "History of Earby" (1930) wrote: "towards the close of the 19th century the population of Earby was almost 6,000, and so it had changed a great deal in the last century. There were five mills and long rows of houses round these mills, but although Earby had increased in importance it was still in Thornton Parish, and Thornton was now a hamlet, the population of which was about 100.

An Urban District Council was fought for with grim determination for 15 years. The first idea in 1894 was to form an Urban District Council of Earby, Thornton and Kelbrook, but this failed. Although Thornton is a sparsely populated hamlet it still retained a traditional feeling of superiority over Earby, a relic of medieval times when the Lord of the Manor lived at Thornton. A second attempt was made in 1900 and a third in 1907, but these failed because of differences about boundaries. On the 16th January 1908 another application was made with a specific urban area stated. Kelbrook fought against being joined to Earby for local government purposes, but in vain. The order constituting these two places an Urban District was made and confirmed. Subsequently the district was separated into three wards, two in Earby and one in Kelbrook".

Much interest had been shown in the popular movement to secure urban powers for Earby. A rapidly growing Earby had to elect representatives to the Thornton-in-Craven Parish Council. For all matters above the restricted scope of the local council the parish had to look to the Skipton Rural District Council, which covered a wide area extending into the Dales. In favour of the application it was reported that "industrialisation has firmly planted itself in Earby and the rattle of looms is more familiar than the lowing of cattle. There is decidedly an appearance of prosperity about the aspiring town, and the builders are busy in putting up new houses, new stores and extensions to weaving sheds".

In September 1909 Earby and Kelbrook Urban District Council was carved out of the Skipton Rural District, with East, West and Kelbrook Wards. The nominations for the nine seats of the newly

formed Council were:

West Ward – Arthur John Birley, manufacturer*; Tom Henry Brown, weaver; William Judd, fish salesman; Ben Matthews, tailor*; James Wright, builder*

East Ward – David Aldridge, foreman plate-layer*; Charles Watson Bailey, cotton manufacturer*; John Boocock, weaver; Tom Brown, grocer; William Cowgill, builder; Thomas Henry Hartley, manufacturer*; Edward Taylor, gentleman; Joseph Watson, window cleaner

Kelbrook Ward – William Atkinson, grocer; Joseph Bateson. Insurance agent; Rueben Hodgson, gentleman; Harry Horbury, schoolmaster*; Francis Millward, caretaker*; Thomas Pickles, farmer; Francis Albert Pickles, farmer*

* Indicates the nine elected Councillors

From 1909 to 1974 Earby formed an Urban District, with Earby Urban District Council, part of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Since the re-organisation of local government in 1974, Earby became Earby Parish Council in the West Craven area of Pendle. In 2011 the Council became Earby Town Council. Earby forms part of the West Craven Area Committee of Pendle Borough, Lancashire.

EARBY WAR MEMORIAL AND MEMORIAL GROUNDS—Editor

In May 1921 the War Memorial committee reported to Earby Urban District Council that they had accepted the tender of Messrs. Smith Bros. of Burnley for a memorial in Portland stone at a cost of £795. The architect of the memorial was Mr W A Quarmby of Burnley.

In August four foundation stones were laid at the base of the memorial by Mrs Birley, Mrs C Shuttleworth, Mr Edmund Greenwood and Mr Walter Wilkinson. Mr Birley stated that £1,014 was in hand after paying £600 for the site, but they would be committed to £50 over that amount when the work was completed and then there would be the laying out of the grounds. The memorial was to be handed over to Earby Urban District Council.

The Earby Urban District memorial was unveiled in the presence of a large crowd by Mrs Williamson of Albion Road Earby, who lost three of her four sons in the war. She released the Union Jack draped over the memorial and it was reported that "there was not a dry eye in the audience". After the Last Post had been sounded, the Earby Band played the National Anthem and a large number of wreaths were laid on the cenotaph. The roll of honour contained 165 names.

In March 1923 it was reported that the Memorial Committee were intending to lay out one or two public hard tennis courts on the spare ground on the site of the war memorial.

In August 1949, writing in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times, "Reporter" observed:

"Until last week, when I visited the memorial grounds and playing fields of the Earby Urban District Council adjoining the main Colne-Skipton Road, I had no idea of their beauty or usefulness... The local park, a word which very aptly describes this area of over an acre, divided into three sections, comprises lawns and gardens and what a peaceful retreat this section is, where the Cenotaph nobly reminds us of those who paid the supreme sacrifice in the First World War. The middle section contains a fine bowling green and formerly also provided tennis for the flannel enthusiasts, but that is now discontinued and is actually in the process of being transformed into a lawn and rose garden, a sample corner plot having already been cultivated. The third portion, which lies beyond the water course, was, on the occasion of my visit, perhaps the most popular, for there we find the childrens' playground, complete with all manner of swings, roundabouts and other forms of amusement.

The official in charge, Mr J T Lawson, who for the last five years has been most industrious and painstaking, was in fact repairing a "riddle", when I met him there. It is significant with what pride these "gentlemen of the soil" do their job, and how annoyed they are with youths who are careless or destructive with either plants, foliage or equipment. To revert to the lawns where the memorial is erected, this is an area ablaze with colour by two rose-beds, chiefly red, masses of

poppies, a plentiful range of antirrhinums or snap-dragons, and a dozen circles of gladioli. In the centre of the lawn towers the Cenotaph, a handsome piece of work in Portland stone, with inlaid plaques, which contains over 150 names of those who gave their lives in the 1914-18 War, and upon which ere long an additional structure will be placed in remembrance of those who gave their lives in the recent conflict.. Almost parallel there stands an old time quaint stone, taken from a near-by Roman road with directions to Colne and Skipton, the latter name being upside down. These directions, even today, are quite applicable geographically.

The bowling green certainly took one's eye and Mr Lawson told me it was in better condition, the bowls players of the district had laid aside their "woods" and without cause. Sport in this category has definitely waned in Earby, even though one could enjoy a game for the small charge of 3d per hour with a reduction of 2d for pensioners... A beautiful border of candytuft fringes the upper part of the turf, which is flanked with hollyhocks in red, pink and white. Most of the plants, Mr Lawson told me, were from seeds originally grown many years ago. A white-tiled drinking fountain is a popular amenity with a specially improvised tap which shuts off the water on its own account. The large pavilion, formerly used by both bowlers and tennis players, could quite easily be separated and re-modelled with a greenhouse – one thing lacking. The cessation of tennis made me curious. The reason it seems was that the hard red surface became exceedingly dusty and was unsuitable, especially for ladies.

Surrounding the grounds are some 32 forms, each to seat six, all having been the gifts to the Memorial Committee by various organisations including from local industrial firms, factories, clubs, associations and private gifts. These forms are "housed" regularly by Mr Lawson, who regards them as equal treasures with his plants, trees and shrubberies, a line of mountain ash being another of his specialities. The inhabitants of Earby have become familiar with this restful and recreational facility which the local Council has provided, yet a special feature at Earby is that their approach is on the level, and thereby more appreciated by the elderly persons who seek either rest or recreation in this typical Garden of Remembrance."

LOCAL TENNIS CLUBS OF YESTERYEAR

Stephanie Carter—Gleaned from local newspapers

EARBY

A Cricket and Tennis Club Entertainment was held in the Victoria Institute in November 1890. It took the form of a social evening with tea and dancing and “other forms of amusement”.

In May 1923 the War Memorial Committee opened two public hard tennis courts on the spare ground to the rear of the War Memorial adjacent to the bowling green. The courts were red all weather hard courts and open to the public each week day at 10am, the charge being by the hour. An exhibition game was played by Councillor J Barker, Mr Seed and the Misses Bailey. The public were asked to support the new sports ground.



Wheatlands Tennis Club in Earby was in operation from the early 1930s through to the 1950s. It was situated at the bottom of the field, where the ground flattened out, on the far side of Earby Wheatlands cemetery and consisted of two grass courts, a hut (pavilion) and changing facilities. Squire Firth remembers playing there in the 1950s

and says there was a good membership. Howard Smith and other Baptist Church members played prominent roles in the club.

In December 1932 Wheatlands Tennis Club held a whist drive and social in the Liberal Club, presided over by Mr H Duerden, chairman of the club.

In August 1938 a mixed doubles tennis match was played between Wheatlands Club members and a team attached to the Bethesda Tennis Club. The latter team won by 16 sets to 2 and 100 games to 73.

In May 1942 the officers and committee members of the Wheatlands Club were as follows:

Tennis
Officers and committee members were re-elected at the annual general meeting of the Wheatlands Tennis Club, held at the Liberal Club Rooms on Monday evening of last week. Mr. Norman Hargreaves was re-elected secretary and Mr. P. Maynard treasurer. The committee for the coming season will consist of the following members: Mr. John Smith, Miss Marjorie Perry, Miss Jennie Lund, Miss Kathleen Smith and Miss Kathleen Fowler. Generally optimistic views were expressed by members for a successful forthcoming season and increased membership.

In April 1946 Wheatlands Tennis Club opened the season, several members turning out despite the cool weather. No fixture list was planned with efforts being directed to improving the standard of play. There were vacancies for a few members and the secretary was Mr N Hargreaves.

In August 1953 Richard Hodkinson was remanded in custody charged with stealing from Wheatlands Tennis Club two tennis rackets, a racket press, two pairs of tennis shoes, a rubber grip and a canvas bag (worth £10. 4s 6d). These had been left in the pavilion by chairman

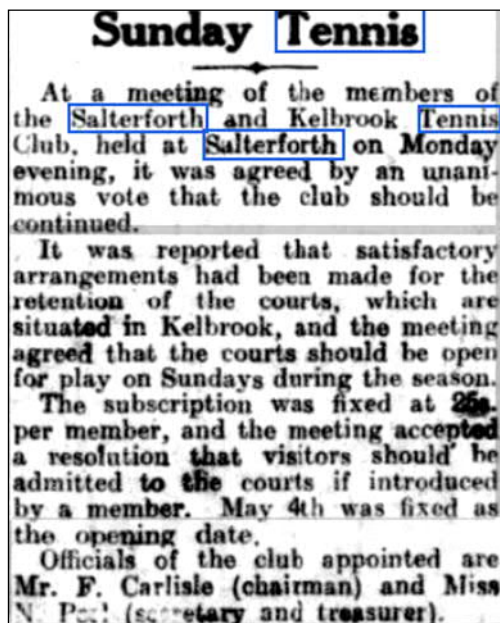
Joyce Whalley. These items were seen for sale in a shop window in Skipton. When Hodkinson reported to Earby Police Station on another matter, he confessed to the theft and selling the equipment. Skipton Magistrates sent him to prison for three months.

KELBROOK

In August 1923 two teenagers were charged with “stealing tennis rackets and balls valued at £4 10 from a tennis pavilion at Kelbrook .”

In September 1928 Kelbrook St Mary’s Tennis Club held a successful “flannel dance” in the school. Dancing was to J Pateman and his Broadway Dance Band.

In August 1941 members held a well-attended garden fete in the courts where “keen competition was seen in the mixed doubles tournament”. A substantial sum of money was raised.



SALTERFORTH AND OTHERS

1940 June saw a friendly match between members of the Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Salterforth Tennis Club team on the Wheat-

lands lawn tennis courts, Salterforth scoring the victory.

In May 1940 the Salterforth Tennis Club season commenced. Members were looking forward to an enjoyable time on the grass courts during the summer.

In November 1940 members took a room in Church Street Barnoldswick to provide entertainment for the winter – there was table tennis, draughts and dominoes.

In February 1943 Grove, Sough and Salterforth Tennis Club held their inaugural dance at Barnoldswick Majestic. Dancing was to the Armageddon Band and a substantial sum was raised for club funds.

In May 1943 GSS (Grove, Sough and Salterforth) Tennis Club opened the season with a dance at the Coronation Hall Earby. Dancing until midnight was to Frank Binns Dance Band. This was the first dance in Earby since the amalgamation of the three clubs.

The following photograph is taken from the Society archives and shows a group of friends at Cowgarth Farm Earby.



If anyone has any further information on any of the above clubs, in particular the whereabouts of the courts, please contact the Editor.

A LIFES JOURNEY

by Helen Fry



Helen Fry from Australia wrote – “I came across a story on the web from the Spring 2014 newsletter/magazine, by Colin Dalby, about Thomas James Treverton (left). I have been researching the Treverton family because Thomas’ sister Priscilla born in Burnley in 1893 married my great uncle in Australia”. Helen has sent the following article.

When Mary Ann Humphreys and her children came to live in Earby in the 1890s, she entered a more settled period of her life. She left behind memories of a first marriage that must have been difficult, as her husband Thomas Lewis Treverton at first moved around Cornwall and Lancashire looking for mining work, which sometimes forced them to live apart. Mary Ann had also worked in the mines of Cornwall from a young age. There was a restlessness in Thomas Lewis and his father James, which made them seek opportunities beyond the confines of England.

For 10 years, from 1883 to 1893, Thomas' quest for work took Mary Ann and their young daughter Elizabeth, to Australia, where life was also unsettled and held sad memories. She travelled a few thousand miles between the two states of South Australia and Queensland as Thomas pursued the lure of gold mining. Five further children were born to them - two in South Australia and three in Queensland, but in Queensland, two had died and were buried in the Charters Towers cemetery.

Mary Ann, her husband Thomas and daughter Elizabeth aged 1, left Plymouth on 23 February 1883 on the *Dundee* immigrant ship, arriving at Adelaide, South Australia, on 18 May. They travelled with her parents-in-law, James and Mary Ann (nee Hicks) Treverton and her brother-in-law William John Treverton and his wife Elizabeth.

While she had the support of her parents-in-law, probably more so her mother-in-law Mary Ann, for the few years she lived at the Wallaroo Mines in South Australia, she was on her own when she and her then three young children followed Thomas to the northern state. A South Australian newspaper report tells of Thomas and his brother William's fondness for alcohol which would have been an added burden. At Charters Towers Mary Ann was joined by her brother Alexander Bunny, who had left a family in England, and whose own fondness for alcohol resulted in his death in Charters Towers on 3 October 1892.

Mary Ann's children born at the Wallaroo Mines were James Henry (16 October 1883) and Beatrice (13 October 1885). Those born at Charters Towers were Melinda (25 December 1887), Thomas James (28 September 1889), the subject of Colin Dalby's 2014 article, and Alfred Ernest (11 October 1891). James Henry died at Charters Towers on 16 August 1887 and Alfred Ernest on 20 April 1892.

With these tragedies behind her and possibly with the prospect of following Thomas to another state or country (there is some possibility that Thomas went to the South African gold mines), Mary Ann decided to return to England. She was pregnant when she and her four living children left Townsville, Queensland on the 'Avoca'. The incoming passenger immigration list for the British India Steam Navigation Company shows they arrived at Southampton on 3 June 1893.

On her return, Mary Ann occupied a house at 149 Gannow Lane, Burnley, where she was a few doors from her parents at 153 Gannow Lane and some of her husband Thomas Treverton's brothers and their families. On 8 October that year, Mary Ann gave birth to her youngest child Priscilla who was christened at St. John's Gannow, Burnley, on 11 December 1893 and who was later to have her own adventures in Australia. Mary Ann had probably not heard from her husband since leaving Australia.

In Burnley, Mary Ann then met William Humphreys born in Roch-

dale, Lancashire. In the 1891 UK Census, aged 40, he was a lodger at 4 Ince St. Burnley, a married cotton weaver, in the home of Margaret Clayton and family. Sometime between 1893 and 1901, he and Mary Ann moved to Earby with her children, where they found work in the area's cotton mills.

William, working as a carpet weaver, had possibly previously married Hannah Tingle in 1885, who is recorded living with her widowed father John (74 a former publican) at 94 Westgate St, Dewsbury, occupation confectioner, born at Staincliffe near Dewsbury. Also living in the house was her son John R. Humphreys born in Dewsbury, her single sister Ellen, 38 and a weaver and possibly Ellen's son John, a grocer's assistant. Hannah Humphreys was still living in Dewsbury in the 1901 UK Census, working as a bread maker with her son John R. and sister Ellen."She died in 1917 at Dewsbury.

William Humphreys and Mary Ann Treverton registered their marriage at Skipton in October 1899. By this time Mary Ann could declare herself a widow.

In 1899 Mary Ann's daughter (Mary) Elizabeth, who had lived through the trials of life in Australia and probably spent some years in Earby, died, her death registered in Skipton, Yorkshire

Mary Ann's children were all employed in the cotton mills from an early age. In 1901 UK Census, the family was occupying 14-18 Claremont Terrace, Earby, Yorkshire. Beatrice and Thomas James married at a young age, in St Mary's church Kelbrook. On 14 January 1905, Beatrice, aged 19, married Albert Hindle, 21, a tinsmith worker, born in Burnley and son of a coal miner. They had two boys Thomas James and Alexander. On 14 March 1908, Thomas James Treverton, aged 20, married Sarah Ann Johnson, born in Derbyshire and they also had two children - Mary Elizabeth and Lewis. In 1910 these families were all living in Claremont Terrace, Earby. By the 1911 UK Census, these families had moved a little south to Sough Bridge, to work in its mill, with the Hindle family living nearby at Lancashire Ghyll and Thomas James Treverton, his wife and family living in the Humphreys household. Melinda, aged 34, married in 1921,

to Robert Tillotson.

Albert Hindle and Thomas James Treverton both enlisted for WWI. Thomas served in the 1st battalion, 4th division of the East Lancashire regiment. He was killed in action on the Somme in France on 12 July 1916 and is buried in the Entretat Churchyard near the English Channel. Albert was 32 when he enlisted on 25 May 1916, sent to the Army reserve, mobilized to the 76th Cheshire Regiment but transferred from there to remain in England until he was discharged medically unfit on 17 August 1917 from the Woolwich Dockyard, but liable for medical reassessment. He planned to live in Blackburn after his discharge

KELBROOK CHURCH CLOCK RESTORATION

November 11th saw a combined ceremony at Kelbrook Church with prayers of thanksgiving for the restoration of the church clock followed by an act of remembrance for armistice day.

The clock restoration was carried out by Cumbria Clock Company based in the village of Dacre near Penrith and was funded by the Fort Foundation and Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council.

More details in the next edition.

PLEASED TO HELP

We were pleased to help with an enquiry we received regarding William Coulthard, one of our brave soldiers of the 1st World War (see photograph) and received the following reply

Letter to the editor

Dear Bob, Margaret and Stephanie,

Thank you so much for the information and photographs of William Craven Coulthard and his family. I was thrilled to read about how he earned the Military Medal in his own words. It is often very difficult to find out such details.

I am only very distantly related to William. I am his second cousin 2

times removed according to the Ancestry website. His great grandfather was Fenwick Coulthard (about 1796 - 1875), Fenwick was my 3 x great grandfather.

In 2018 I started a project to identify the members of my family who had served in WW1 and to try and find out a little about some of their experiences. This is how I came across William C Coulthard.

I am very grateful to you all for the information and photographs. The work of the Earby and District Local History Society is so valuable to people researching their family history.

Kind Regards,

Carol Mason



Coulthard family with William (clearly traumatised) in centre

KEW GARDENS PART 3

Stephanie Carter

Although formerly a tailor in Scotland Road, Nelson, and before that having had a shop in Leeds Road, Thomas Hargreaves, enterprising proprietor of Kew Gardens and the Queens Hall, Nelson, was also a builder and property owner. A portion of Mr Hargreaves' land was boarded off and the numerous and very well advertised events took place within. He constructed villas, including Belvedere

Villa, Cooper Street and many terraced houses in the Bradley area. In 1889 it was reported that he had "disposed of a large proportion of his land, at the exceedingly low ground rent of one penny per yard, for the purpose of erecting thereon a shed capable of holding 1,500 looms". The premises became the property of the Bradley Room and Power Co. Ltd. and Bradley Mill was soon erected. An extensive site was also sold for the construction of Bradley Board School. In 1893 he advertised "land to let on Bradley Estate – very eligible building land close to Bradley Shed and Throstle Nest Mill Companies".

In February 1894 several newspapers reported the "startling death" of Thomas' wife, Mrs Mary Ann Hargreaves. The Blackburn Standard took up the story: "The evidence showed that the deceased had been addicted to drinking for some years. Every day last week she had sent a girl for sweet nitre, which was purchased from shops round about where the deceased lived (265 Leeds Road). Last Tuesday night her husband came home and found her helplessly drunk. He put her in the chair, but she fell from it amongst the fire irons. He afterwards put her on the sofa but she seemed to have got up and overturned the table and fallen amongst the broken pots and bottles which fell off the table. Her face and head were cut and bruised. She continued to drink to excess each day and on Friday she sent the girl who went to the same shop four times for a shillings-worth of sweet nitre. The nitre sold in these shops was generally a villainous compound made with methylated spirit. The deceased died from excessive drinking, accelerated by the quantity of sweet nitre taken. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence."

Thomas Hargreaves himself died in April 1896 at 265 Leeds Road, Nelson, aged 59.

On 16th August 1901 the Nelson Chronicle, Colne Advertiser & Clitheroe Division News carried the headlines "Great Fire at Nelson – Bradley Mill in Flames – Warehouse Guttled - £29,000 Damage". The report detailed "by far the biggest fire that had happened in the history of Nelson" in the area once known as Kew Gardens. Excerpts from this report are given.

“The well-known premises of the Bradley Room and Power Company are situated on land once famous as Kew Gardens in the centre of Bradley...The Lower Bradley Estate with its Lower Hall, old Corn Mill and farmsteads, largely belonged to the late Messrs. Howarth and Richard Sagar, from whom it passed into the possession of Messrs. Tunstill Bros. This firm had the estate mapped out in building sites, and this came into the market just before the floodtide of the town’s remarkable expansion. The late Mr Thomas Hargreaves, better known as Peepy Hargreaves, on account of a curious look he had in one eye, was amongst some of the earliest applicants for this land, and he took several acres of it. He saw that Nelson was extending and he had faith in his own convictions upon its future prosperity. He couldn’t dispose of the land just at first, but he built on some of it, and did the next best thing he could by turning the bulk of the remainder into what became well and widely known as Kew Gardens

Of horticulture there was little in those gardens, and the mindscape there was even less; still there was the name, and if the land had been more prose about it than poetry his imagination no doubt saw the useful and the beautiful in bricks and mortar.

Mr Thomas Hargreaves was an intensely practical man, and he not only demonstrated that when he became a member of the Nelson Town Council, but he showed how to make the most of Kew Gardens, when the characteristic of Kew Gardens neither lent itself to the picturesque or to the popular taste of a pleasure resort. He seized upon the most sensational open-air outdoor talent that he could find in the country, and he brought it into the gardens and advertised it for all he was worth, both at home and afar. By that means he fairly captured the pleasure-seeking multitude, and some of his outdoor entertainments at Kew Gardens were so besieged by crowds of people that the normal way of taking the admittance money had to be abandoned, a wheelbarrow being placed at each of the entrances and the people were requested to throw their money into them. Great concourses of people numbering anywhere from 10,000 to 30,000 used to assemble in Kew Gardens, and it was possible now and again to see the energetic proprietor wheeling the money away in a wheelbarrow.

But that business did not last forever, and the attractions becoming less, the fickle crowds ceased to come. Something else had to be done. The resourceful ground landlord fell back on what was his original idea – building. He built and built. Kew thus began to be a populous place, and he sold an extensive site for the Bradley Board School and another for a large mill for the Bradley Room and Power Co....

If Mr Thomas Hargreaves did not succeed in making Kew Gardens blossom as a rose, he was largely instrumental in making it bloom as a garden of industry and social activity...”

SKATING ON FOULRIDGE RESERVOIR

Stephanie Carter

Whilst researching the Wesleyan School in Earby, I came across this snippet of information as recalled by Miss Teasdale, an infant school mistress at Earby’s Wesleyan School :

“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”.

I had heard previously of skating on Foulridge reservoir and the following notes, gleaned from local newspapers, reinforce this and back up Miss Teasdale’s memoir of 1895.

Foulridge lower reservoir (Lake Burwain) is a man-made lake constructed in 1783 and deepened in 1832. The upper reservoir was built in 1865. They originally started out as canal reservoirs to top-up the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Following the construction of the Lower Reservoir, it would freeze over and skating and skating competitions took place. The following are excerpts from newspapers down the years:

1864 Feb. On Shrove Tuesday a considerable number of youths were attracted to the Foulridge Reservoir for the purpose of skating. The ice was not considered safe by the ‘knowing ones’. However, nothing could curb the buoyant spirit of youth but enjoyment. At about four

o'clock in the afternoon, a youth ventured further out than was prudent, and the result was that the ice gave way and he disappeared. A young man named James Kellett of Colne, seeing the perilous position of the youth, dashed forward with his skates on, laid himself down on the ice and crept towards the hole. Others came behind, laid down, and held each other by the ankles, this forming a living chain. Meanwhile the youth rose and sank two or three times and was fast losing consciousness. Mr Kellett made a desperate seizure of his coat collar, held him fast, and after repeated efforts succeeded in bringing him out. The living chain was then dragged on to safe footing. The youth appeared quite dead, but the usual appliances of friction and rolling about were used, and signs of life appeared. He sobbed and sighed deeply, rose to his feet, and soon afterwards went home to the village, while the young men exulted in having done as generous a deed. We think we cannot do less than recommend Mr Kellett to the Humane Society for his brave and inspired conduct. We have often been surprised that no appliances, anticipating accidents, have been provided at this reservoir. It would be a very easy thing to provide long light ladders and a few ropes.

1865 Feb. On Sunday evening and Monday morning there was a very heavy fall of snow in this locality, which rendered the roads almost impassable. Men were engaged in cutting and carting it away during the greater part of the week. There were 2,000 to 3,000 persons on the Foulridge reservoir on Sunday. We are informed that a handsome testimonial is about to be presented to Mr Kellett for the gallant rescue of the lad from drowning last week, and one from a similar fate last winter.

On Saturday last there was an immense number of persons on the Foulridge reservoir, the scene being very animated; in fact resembling one of the American fairs on the ice. Tuesday and Wednesday a number of men were employed to clear away the snow from certain portions of the ice, for which they received remuneration out of a subscription raised by the skaters. There was skating by torchlight on Wednesday evening, large numbers availing themselves of the opportunity.

1867 Jan....The Foulridge reservoir has daily been the rendezvous of all skaters who could spare or afford a few leisure hours. The ladies this season are "coming out", and in one or two instances are making rapid progress in the art of skating. The "ladies man" Mr Sagar Brown seems to have been very busily employed in giving instruction to all those "fair ones" who have sought his assistance...On Saturday and Sunday immense numbers of people from all parts of the country visited the place, on the latter day there being no less than 2,500 upon the ice at one time.

1871 Dec. On Saturday afternoon on the Foulridge reservoir John Smallpage, aged 25 years, son of Mr Isaiah Smallpage, cotton manufacturer, Burnley, and Robert James Smith, also of Burnley, fell through the ice. Mr Smith was rescued by a companion, but Mr Smallpage drowned. (*He was his father's eldest son and manager of the cotton mill*)

1885 Dec. On Friday afternoon, whilst skating on Foulridge reservoir, a young man fell into the water, owing to a breakage in the ice. He was about 50 feet from the embankment at the time, but the bystanders, by means of fastening their overcoats together, rescued him.

1891 Dec. Foulridge reservoir and other sheets of ice in this neighbourhood were crowded with joyous skaters, and football was indulged in by a great many persons...

1894 Jan. On Monday whilst skating on Foulridge reservoir, a young lady from Colne fell and broke her arm. Her injury was attended to by Mr Brown of Earby, who was near the scene of the accident, and medical assistance was soon afterwards obtained.

1904 Dec. Three accidents occurred on Monday on Foulridge reservoir, where skating has been proceeding for several days. A young woman fell and broke her ankle and a young man and young woman fell through the ice, being extricated with considerable difficulty. Members of the Colne Ambulance Corps attended to them.

1925 Dec. The illustration shows 81 year old Mr Lonsdale of Colne skating on Foulridge reservoir on Saturday. (*He died at the age of 85,*

after having been skating in January, February and March the year prior to his death



Right - Skating on Foulridge Reservoir c1920 (Lancs. C.C. Red Rose Collection)

1927 Dec. A large number of people were skating last night on the Foulridge reservoir which in the days of King Frost possesses one of the finest sheets of ice in the country. It is the first time skating has taken place on the reservoir for some years.

1928 Jan. An inquest was held into the death of a 16 year old weaver from Foulridge who drowned whilst skating on Foulridge reservoir. A friend had attempted to rescue him but the ice cracked beneath him and he had to crawl back to the shore. The police told the coroner that when the body was recovered, the water was 15 feet deep. The ice was dangerous. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

1935 Dec. Hopes are running high in Foulridge that skating will be possible on the great expanse of Lake Burwain. The lake is already frozen over.

1945 Feb. There was skating on Foulridge reservoir last weekend and on Monday, but the thaw which came on Monday night made the ice unsafe and the skating finished.

A DOCTOR'S LIFE IN EARBY – NOT ALL THAT IT SEEMED.

Stephanie Carter

In 1890 Dr James Fullerton Hunter MD, surgeon and physician, moved to Earby and soon became a popular medical practitioner. Writing in the Craven Herald in 1935, John Hartley recalled:

“A new practitioner arrived in the person of Dr Hunter. He was an Irishman, of typical Irish geniality and gusto. At first he resided in the front row of Wesley Place, opposite the Wesleyan Chapel, and later occupied a new house in Green End Villas. He soon became a popular doctor, and established a good practice, with the result that he had built a new commodious house, with surgery, in Water Street. The Home Rule agitation was then at its height, and the doctor allied himself with the Liberal Party, which was then very strong in the village. He addressed several meetings and could always speak interestingly, with first-hand knowledge. He was very much attached to the Victoria Institute and made many friends among all sections of the community. Of a progressive type of mind, the provision of more educational facilities made a strong appeal to him, and on the occasion of the first School Board election he stood as an independent candidate. There were eight candidates and Dr Hunter was one of the successful aspirants for membership of the Board but was returned by a narrow majority being only three votes above the next on the list. At the election which followed three years later, Dr Hunter was at the head of the poll, a tribute alike to his popularity and service for the community. He worked in happy association with the other members of the Board, and greatly enjoyed the service which he was able to render for the benefit of the children of the district. Dr Hunter's wife was a talented artist and musician and was highly esteemed.”

This is all I knew about Dr Hunter, so with the help of ancestry and findmypast, giving me access to contemporary newspaper reports of the day, I discovered that there was more to Dr Hunter than the recollections above revealed.

James Fullerton Hunter was born in Donegal, Ireland in 1862. His father, a farmer, was William Henry Hunter who had married Sarah Spratt in 1858 at Rathmelton, Donegal, and who died in Milford in 1884. According to the 1901 census James' widowed mother, Sarah, aged 70, was living at New Mill, Rathmelton, Donegal, together with daughter Sarah Jane, 36, a school teacher, daughter Annie Donnelly 34, son Andrew Spratt Hunter, 32, a farmer, auctioneer and land agent, grand-daughter Lily Lindsey Hunter* aged 10 and born in England and three servants. John Fullerton's brother, the above named Andrew Spratt married Chrissie Isabella Davidson in 1907 at Milford, Ireland.

In June 1881 the Belfast Telegraph posted a list of candidates who had passed the First University Examination in Medicine at Queens University, Belfast. James Fullerton Hunter was one of these. He married Charlotte Selina Chase in 1886 at Larne, Ireland. The couple moved to England where Dr Hunter went into partnership with Dr Lawson of Nelson and Brierfield. Dr Lawson was a very popular doctor and president of Brierfield Liberal Club. The couple's eldest child, William Henry Lawson Hunter, was born in Nelson and baptised in Brierfield in June 1887. James and Charlotte moved to Earby in 1890 and the 1891 census shows them living at Green End Villas:

James Hunter 28 doctor of medicine born Ireland

Charlotte 30 wife born Ireland

William H L Hunter 3 born Nelson

James E Hunter 1 born Thornton in Craven

Lily 4 months born Thornton in Craven (This is the Lily marked * above)

Hannah Bold 42 servant born Manchester

The couple had three more children Charlotte Muriel born in Burnley, Kevin Noel born in Earby in 1893 and Amelia. They lived at Green End Road, Earby.

James soon became a popular doctor in Earby, building up a good practice in the parish as described by John Hartley above. It was in July 1892 that Dr Hunter performed the post mortem on Eliza Cud-

worth, murdered in the Old Lane by her husband.

On the Electoral Registers 1893 -1898 James Hunter's place of abode was Brook Terrace, Water Street, where he had built a large house and surgery, (Tyrconnell House)

In April 1894 he was the favourite to win a seat on the School Board, his addresses attracting much attention. It was a surprise when he came 5th out of the 8 candidates. He had posed distinctly as a friend of the children and his 257 votes earned him a place on the Board.

In September 1894 Dr Hunter was returning from Thornton on his tricycle and when coming down Wysick he met a drove of cattle. In trying to get out of the way he was driven against the wall and broke his arm. Dr Dicky of Colne was called out to set the broken limb.

In July 1898 another alarming accident befell Dr Hunter. Dr Hunter and Mr J B Hodgkins had been on a tour on their bicycles and when returning home between Steeton and Eastburn they encountered some large stones in the road. Unfortunately the Doctor was thrown from his machine on to a heap of stones and was seriously injured about the head and face. He was assisted to the White Bear at Eastburn and Dr Fletcher of Crosshills and his assistant were called in. Several wounds about the face and head were stitched and he remained in a precarious condition for some days, being unconscious for a considerable part of the time, and up to Wednesday it had not been considered advisable to remove him home.

All appeared to be going well for Dr Hunter and his family. However, the Electoral Registers for 1899 and 1900 state that James Hunter's abode was Oxenhope.

In March 1899 Dr Hunter sent in his resignation to Thornton School Board from London.

The April 1900 School Board Minutes record that Mr Green, the relieving officer who was responsible for evaluating the cases of people applying for poor relief, reported that Mrs Hunter was waiting to appear before the Board to request that Mr Green give her the address of her husband in order that a summons for a maintenance order

might be served on him. Mr Green had refused to divulge the address as Dr Hunter had written some time ago offering to contribute a pound per week towards his wife's support and to educate the two elder boys. The offer had been accepted and Mrs Hunter had received a pound a week since February. The Chairman failed to see how the Board could intervene with the family arrangement and the Board refused to grant Mrs Hunter an interview.

1901 records confirm that all was not as it had seemed with the Hunter family. The Electoral Register showed Charlotte Hunter living at a cottage in Albion Road Earby and James Hunter in Oxenhope. The census showed the different addresses occupied by Mr and Mrs Hunter:

1901 8 Hartley Street Earby

Charlotte S Hunter 38 born Ireland

William 13 warehouseman born Nelson

James 11 born Thornton

Charlotte 9 born Burnley

Kenneth 7 born Earby

Amelia 2 born Oxenhope

1901 Victoria Road Hackney, London

James Fullerton Hunter 39 doctor of medicine, general medical practice, born Ireland

Elizabeth Eva 46 servant housekeeper born Stepney

Alice Ada Eva servant's daughter

The following account is reproduced from the Nelson Chronicle 2 August 1902. The same report was published in the Preston Herald 16 August 1902 under the headline Doctor's Matrimonial Affairs – Revelations at Blackburn

Former Nelson Doctor and His Wife

"Charlotte Selina Hunter applied to the magistrates at the Blackburn Police Court last Friday morning for a maintenance order against her husband, James Fullerton Hunter M.D., physician and surgeon, of 3

Gainsborough Road, Hackney Wick, London.

It was stated that the parties have been married 16 years and have six children. They are both natives of Ireland. Soon after the marriage petitioner's husband went into partnership with Dr Lawson of Nelson. Here complainant said, her life as a wife became almost unbearable. Defendant not only took a great amount of drink, but became acquainted and intimate with other women, with whom he corresponded. He also invited women of loose character, along with men, to drink and play cards.

Thinking a change of surroundings would improve his conduct towards her, she prevailed upon him to go to Earby, where he established a good practice. Gradually, however, he resumed his former life, and not only became intimate with other women, but also ill-treated her. On one occasion she found a number of letters from a woman in her husband's box, and when she charged him with disloyalty he made no attempt to defend himself. Later he knocked her down, struck her in the face and threatened her with a knife, with which he stripped her clothes from her back. On account of his drinking habits, and neglecting what might have been a good and extensive practice, defendant became embarrassed pecuniary, and in 1898 they separated, without any arrangement as to her maintenance being made.

He allowed her, however, a reasonable sum for her keep and that of the children, but alleged that she was unduly extravagant and was spending money unwisely on a patent. She admitted that she had brought out a certain class of gloves, but denied that she had ever patented them. Defendant had got into debt all over the country. Defendant, who did not appear, wrote a long letter to the Clerk, stating it was impossible to live with the petitioner.

An order was made against the defendant carrying 30s. per week."

Further tragedy was to come, again brought to light from two newspaper reports:

Cambridge Daily News 4 October 1902

“Dr James Fullerton Hunter, 41, lately in practice at Gainsborough Road, Hackney Wick, went to visit a patient, and in trying to avoid a dog, of which he was afraid, knocked his nose against a door. Erysipelas set in, and he died in hospital on Monday. The verdict of the jury on Friday was in accordance with the medical evidence”

Portsmouth Evening News 4 October 1902—A Doctor’s Sad Death

“Last evening Mr Wynn E Baxter, the East London Coroner, held an enquiry at the London Hospital into the circumstances attending the death of James Fullerton Hunter, aged 40 years, M.D. and registered, lately practising at 3 Gainsborough Road, Hackney Wick, who died from erysipelas. Mr Andrew Spratt Hunter, of New Mills, Ray Melton, Ireland, identified the body of his brother, whom he last saw alive in April of last year, when visiting Ireland.

On Monday last witness received a telegram informing him that deceased had died in hospital from the effects of an accident. Elizabeth Eva, the wife of a paper stainer, said she acted as housekeeper to the deceased. On Sunday he went to the Hackney mortuary to make a post-mortem examination, previously telling her that he did not even care about it, as it was a very bad case of gangrene. On the following Wednesday he found that his nose was swelling, and she noticed that it was bruised. The next day he remarked ‘This is the last of me, this is the finish’. He then told her that he had been to see a patient, and in rushing out of the way of a big dog he knocked his nose against a door. Mr Lindsey, a friend, attended and pronounced the deceased to be suffering from erysipelas. During the night the swelling increased rapidly, and both eyes became closed. He was removed to hospital at his own wish and died on Monday. Dr James Cullan, House Surgeon, said that death was due to erysipelas (*a bacterial infection now treated with antibiotics*) and a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was returned.”

James Fullerton died on 29th September 1902. Probate was proved by Alexander Lindsey MD and Andrew Spratt Hunter farmer. Effects £650.

EARBY METHODIST BI-CENTENARY

Earby Methodists celebrated the 200th anniversary of the opening of their first church in Earby on the weekend of 9th/10th October. The first chapel was opened in Stoopes Hill, Stoney Bank Lane, in 1821. The larger chapel in Riley Street was opened in 1861 and the adjoining Sunday and Day School in 1872

In 1963 St Peter’s Church opened in the adapted Sunday School buildings. The former Riley Street Chapel, which had been sold as a garage, was demolished in 1980.

The celebratory weekend was a success. Stalls and lunches were available on the Saturday. Earby & District Local History Society provided a display of the history of Methodism in Earby. Their publication “Methodists in Earby, Kelbrook and Salterforth” (£10) was on sale, together with “Earby Wesleyan Day School & Riley Street Council School” (£5). Both these publications are still available from the Society. On the Sunday, services were held in the Chapel and the Harvest Festival was also celebrated.

100 YEARS OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Bob Abel

The Royal British Legion was established on the 15th May 1921 in the aftermath of the First World War. Some six million men had served in the war many of whom returned to civilian life with permanent disabilities and many families had lost the breadwinner as a casualty of the war.

Another consequence of the war was a decline in the British economy and by 1921 unemployment had reached some two million people. The British Legion was therefore established to try and support those who had suffered as a result of service in the war.

Four national ex-servicemen’s organisations were amalgamated to form the Legion. They were the National Association of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors, The British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers, The Comrades of the Great War and the Officers Association. The leading lights were Field Mar-

shal Lord Haig and Tom Lister.

In Earby, by 1924, there was talk of setting up a local branch of the British Legion and on Tuesday 21st May that year a meeting was held at the Albion Hall where it was decided to form an Earby Branch. The meeting was presided over by Mr A J Birley and a committee was elected. Rev J B Atkinson, the recently appointed Vicar of Earby, offered the use of the Parish Hall for meetings.

At a meeting in June the branch was informed that they would not be allowed to affiliate with the Lancashire area as they originally wanted but had to affiliate with the Yorkshire region.

It was reported in the Burnley Express on 28th June 1924:

“All the formalities connected with the formation of a local branch of the Legion in Earby have been complied with and the enrolling of members was proceeding. The first instalment of the proceeds of last years “Poppy Appeal” have been received from Legion headquarters and the Earby Committee will meet regularly to deal with ex-servicemen in need of help”.

Amongst the branch’s other activities, the poppy appeal was the major fund raising event of the year. The poppy was adopted as the emblem of the British Legion in 1921 but the poppy had been used in the USA and Canada prior to that as a symbol of remembrance and peace. The concept is credited to a Canadian Doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, who shortly after losing a friend at Ypres and seeing poppies growing on the battle field, wrote the poem In Flanders Field. The first two lines of the poem read

In Flanders’ fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row...

It was reported in 1936 that proceeds from Earby, Kelbrook and Thornton poppy appeal were £36 18s.

With the outbreak of World War Two the Legion’s services would become more necessary. At the 1944 AGM it was reported that membership had increased by 30...but the branch still needed greater sup-

port from ex-servicemen to enable it to safeguard their interests. It was also reported that five cases of hardship had been investigated during the year.

In 1945 the war ended and the 1946 AGM reported that there had been recruitment of new members but the committee believed that with the large numbers of men recently demobilised it should be possible to double the current membership of 100...the Legion is a power when it comes to claiming pensions as a result of service in the forces and it has done good work in this field for West Craven men... It had also been encouraged to note that former members of the women’s services were joining.

One of the things thought to be holding the branch back was the lack of any permanent club room or headquarters. Eventually they were able to obtain the former spiritualist church on Back Green End Avenue.

Conflict has continued since WWII in Korea, the Balkans and the Middle East and Afghanistan etc and the Legion continues to give support to veterans.

Eventually the number of members in the Earby Branch declined and there had to be a merger with the Barnoldswick Branch.

A collection of army cap badges, mainly put together by the Greenwood family, was on display at the Legion branch and this was donated to Eden Camp Museum near Malton where it is now on prominent display

The 21st Century has seen a resurgence in the local Remembrance Sunday activities thanks to Earby Town Council and not least due to Vera Cocker and the Legion hosting a poppy shop at the Council offices each year on the week before Remembrance Sunday. The attendance at Earby’s cenotaph is testament to that.

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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PROGRAMME FOR NEXT QUARTER

Tuesday 18th January 2022—Ian McKay "Bancroft Mill"

Tuesday 15th February 2022—AGM –Plus Slide Show

Tuesday 15th March 2022—Steve Williams -"Four Tins"

Tuesday 19th April 2022—Steve Halliwell -"My work as a Local History Detective".

By next January we should be back at New Road Community Centre for the meetings.

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.

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