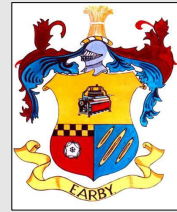


Earby Chronicles



Edition 79
www.earbyhistory.co.uk

WINTER 2015

EARBY & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY CELEBRATES 20th ANNIVERSARY

Saturday 12th September, New Road Community Centre
Ken Ranson

"Founded in 1995 with the aims to raise awareness in the history of the ancient parish of Thornton-in-Craven, of which Earby is a part. Also to research into the heritage of Kelbrook, Sough, Hague, Harden and Salterforth."



The first tentative meeting of the Earby & District Local History Society was held on a January evening in 1995 when seven interested people met at the Community Centre on New Road. A decision was made to form a Society and Bob Abel agreed to take on the role of chairman, a role which he still holds today. "From little acorns..." the Society grew from strength to strength, with a large membership, both local and nationally. Monthly meetings with speakers are held, and a quarterly Chronicle is published. Every year a well-supported exhibition with an historical theme is held, and a large archive of photographs, documents and artifacts has been collected and catalogued for posterity.

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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£2.50
Members of
Society free

Recent talks & features

Page 10	Society's WWI Exhibition in Germany
Page 14	An Earby Ghost Story from 50 Years Ago
Page 16	Craven in the Great War by Year 9 students WCHS

The anniversary celebration also coincided with the publication of Stephanie Carter's latest book. Called "Maids' Tales", Stephanie's intensive research into the lives of those "below stairs" gives a fascinating insight into days gone by. The theme of the event was based around the book with members of the committee dressed as maids and butlers.

The event was opened by Bob Abel who spoke to the large audience about the history of the Society. He was given a surprise presentation, by two of the long-time serving members of the committee, for all his hard work and dedication to the Society over the last twenty years. Bob then introduced Stephanie Carter who told of her many hours of researching into the information for her book. She also spoke of the interesting people she had interviewed and thanked all who had helped her.

Keith Bailey, whose mother's cousin, Bell Simpson, had lived with him for some time, spoke lovingly of his Aunt Bell, whose story is told in the book.

Bob Abel then cut the anniversary cake and tea and scones were served. Photographs of some of the many events held by the Society down the years were on display and "Maids' Tales" proved a popular purchase.

SETTLE HIRINGS

From the Editor

In my book "Maids' Tales", I wrote of the Hiring Fairs for servants and recently discovered the following article written by an unknown correspondent in the Craven Herald 13th June 1930:

"Beware", says Bertie, "of the 'twelve pound look'," and to the farmer in search of a "likely lad" these are comfortable words. Barrie, though, was thinking of typewriters; one cannot hire a lad for six months for his keep and the price of a typewriter, and this depressing fact gives Settle Hiring Fair – at least so far as the farmers are concerned – all the outward semblance of a funeral with themselves as mourners and the industry for corpse. You farmer's face is a reliable guide to conditions in the labour market; the longer it is, the greater are the lads' demands.

But to the farm-hands, wealthy with their last term's money, this is a great occasion. In Sunday best, faces shining with soap and raindrops, they form little trade unions in the Square or lounge self-consciously about, while farmers, like Grand Inquisitors, engage in the time-honoured custom of "pickin' t' good uns". Then follows the usual haggle- in itself an education to the tyro – preliminary to the passing of the "luck penny".

Henry was a young man with a grievance and an Ordnance Survey map. The former he ventilated freely, the latter he had consulted to such good effect that his knowledge of the surrounding country was equal to that of the topographer himself. This time, Henry explained, he had no more intention than had Settle Town Hall clock of being lured by fair words to the wide open spaces where men grow fond of curlews; once in a year was enough for anybody. And sure enough, Henry was accosted by a side-whiskered old farmer of venerable aspect – the owner of one of these outposts of civilisation.

"It's nobbut a mile or two out", wheedled the aged.

"I knaws better" returned Henry, closing his map and the argument. Henry's curlews will

be lonely when the fields turn golden in the summer sun.

George was in search of a good “tommy-shop”, for, like Henry, he had been “taken in”. It wasn’t easy, moaned George, to do a good day’s work on “jam an cake” and he was not prepared to repeat his performance “what with ‘aytime comin on an’ all”. His late employer’s culinary shortcomings, grumbled George, had been “fair ‘art-brekkin”. I think George secured a good berth, for when next I met him he was wearing a large smile and a new bowler hat, the former being replaced at intervals by a new and shining mouth-organ with which he entertained a little coterie of intimate friends. And although George played a tavern in the town, you may be sure his thoughts were with the kitchen.

But it is when the business of the day is done that the fun really begins. Then the waiting shopkeepers stand by to welcome boarders, and toothpastes, razors, pipes, ties and mouth-organs, especially mouth-organs, change hands in huge quantities. One can imagine the factories of Germany working night and day to cope with Craven’s demand, while manufacturing chemists declare fat dividends after Whitsun. After all, there are only two such opportunities per year!

And finally, when the last farmer has turned his mare’s head homewards, comes the dance, and George’s mouth-organ retires in confusion. Dainty nymphs appear from nowhere, and soon the dance floor groans under a shuffling mass of hot and happy humanity, the band produces cacophonous masterpieces and lemonade and laughter flow like water. There is no starchiness about your true country dance; it is very easy, though the promoter takes care it isn’t free!

But Hiring Days, like all good things, must come to an end sometime, and so it is that in the small hours bicycles radiate from Settle like ribs from the handle of a fan. And in a quiet country lane, wafted on a breeze heavy with the scent of blossom, one may hear George’s rendering of “The End of a Perfect Day”. And so it is!

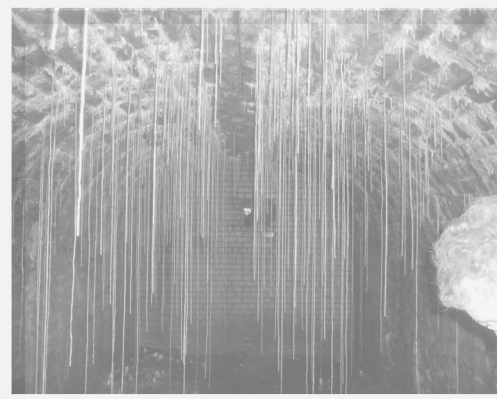
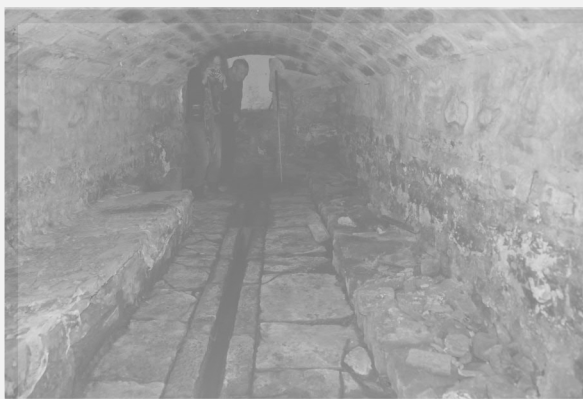
THE ANCHOR INN, SALTERFORTH PART “OF THE VIRTUAL PUB CRAWL”

Margaret Brown and Wendy Faulkner

There has probably been an Inn on this site many hundreds of years catering for the travellers on what was once a main route, including the “Salters”, hence the name of Salterforth – the “Salters Ford”. Before the valley bottoms were drained in the mid 1700’s by the Salterforth Drainage Board, the valley would have been covered in swamp. Any traveller between Blackburn and Skipton would have had to cross this watery expanse. The first place to do so after leaving the Pendle Ridgeway – another ancient route dating back to the Bronze age at least, was at Salterforth. At places like this there was a need for an Inn and a place to rest men and horses. The Inn that you see today was built around 1655. The pub was called the Travellers Rest until the canal was built; then it became the Canal Tavern and was renamed the Anchor sometime in the 1880’s.

When the canal was built in 1770 – 1816 the road had to be raised to allow the canal to pass below. The pub’s original cellars then became waterlogged, and the entrance was around 3 metres below the level of the road; so a new storey was added on top of the building and this became the upper rooms. The former bedrooms became the bar area and the ground floor became the cellars.

Earby Chronicles



Two views of the Anchor late 19th century, Anchor pre 1770 cellar and Stalactites

The original cellars and front door are still in-situ along with the stalactites and stalagmites. These can be viewed by arrangement with the landlord.



On the front right hand upper corner of the building there is an alcove. This was a bit of a puzzle as it was too small for a window, but there was no other explanation until a photograph taken in the late 1880's came to light and showed the alcove before an inscription was covered. At the top of the alcove is a coat of arms and below the following inscription -

Robert Broughton
Mason
Coat of arms
In the year of Our Lord 1776

Robert Broughton was a local business man with his finger in many pies. He was involved in the cloth trade and was one of the early cotton-men. He was just the kind of man to benefit from the canal which brought cotton in from the port of Liverpool. There was a John Broughton spinning cotton at Thornton-in-Craven mill in 1803-06, but it is not know if they were related.

In 2013 the landlord, Martin, drained and cleaned out the lower cellar. It was still in an amazing state of preservation. The photo shows the barrel- vaulted ceiling, typical of the mid 1600's. The stone benches down each side would have been to store the kegs of ale, from which the barman/lady would have filled large jugs to take up to the bar. On what is now the cellar floor, which would have been the original ground floor, little has been altered. You can still see the fireplaces, cupboards and other features including the pre 1770's front door. This can be used to gain access to what would have been the old frontage which is now under the current front patio area. This is where there are the famous stalactites. These were made by limestone, used in building the road above, dissolving into the rainwater, then being deposited as stalactites. Under the current pool table is a room that has not been used since the pub was altered. It can be viewed through a small hatchway, where the fireplace and some stone steps can be seen.

Outside in the car-park was once a stable block against the pub wall and a cottage. These were demolished in the 1960's. Note in the photos the urinal against the cottage wall.

Landlords taken from the census records show that in -
1841 Joseph Brunskill, aged 35, with his wife Ann, aged 40, lived there with their 3 children Hartley, 15, born in Foulridge Elizabeth 13, & Alice 8, born in Salterforth.
By 1851 the Inn was taken over by Hartley Brunskill, 26, (son of Joseph and Ann) and his wife Eleanor, 24, and one daughter Elizabeth, 11 and 2 servants Mary Wellock, 51, and Elizabeth Wellock, 28, presumably mother and daughter.
In 1861 George Waddington 39 who was born in Thornton his wife Jane 35 born in Kildwick and 2 year old niece Sarah Shuttleworth born in Salterforth now lived there
But in 1871 Jane Waddington, 40, was widowed and ran the pub with help from her sister Margaret Shuttleworth, 34, born in Earby, with 6 children, including Sarah now aged 12, Jane, 11, Emily, 9, Robert, 7, Samuel, 5, William, 3. All of the younger five were born in Kelbrook. Looking at census returns it was not unusual for a women to take over the running of a pub after being widowed. They obviously still needed to earn a living to support their families.

In 1881 William Widdup, 37, and his wife Elizabeth, 40, ran the Inn They lived there with their children Elizabeth, 9, Ernest, 4, all born in Salterforth, and had three male boarders - two cattle dealers and a boatman. The Widdups were a local family involved in the timber trade, coal dealing and farming.

In 1891 William Widdup, Elizabeth, children Eliza, 19, and Ernest, 14.

In 1901 William Widdup, 58 and Elizabeth, 60, still lived there with Ernest, 24, their son and James, 18, their nephew.

In 1911 James Lang, 66, who was born in Blackburn, as was his wife Alice, 69, and their son Archibald, 24, who was born in Blackpool. This is the first time that someone from outside the area had moved in to the Inn. With the building of the mill and the quarry in the late 1800's Salterforth was attracting people from outside the immediate area. Their son Archibald was a cotton sizer, so presumably they moved to allow him to work in the mill at Salterforth.

There are some local tales of another pub in Salterforth at Broadstones Farm, although very little evidence has come to light so far. There is an old story that the pub could possibly once have had the name of the Holy Lamb of God in the early medieval times and was run by the monks. In the 1800's it may have been known as the Plough Inn. But the only record of this being a pub is in the 1841 census when a widow with four children stated her occupation as beer seller. She was probably taking advantage of the 1830 Beer Act, which allowed rate payers for the sum of £2.00 to buy a license to make and sell beer from their premises. Broadstones Farm was demolished in the 1970's when Silentrigh took over the mill. They cleared all the buildings to create their car-park. A lot of important historical evidence was probably destroyed.

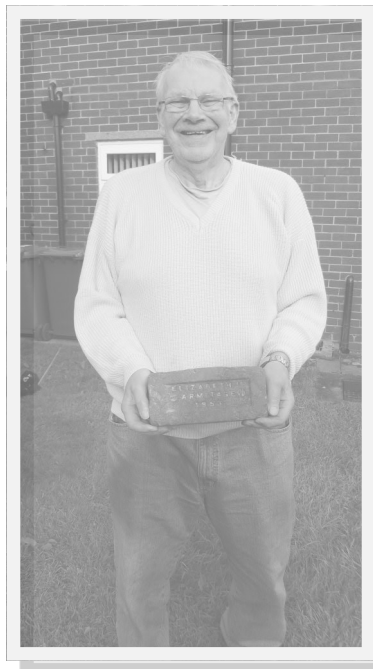
PENDLE WALKING FESTIVAL

A walk on old Byways and Highways was lead by EDLHS Committee members Margaret Brown and Wendy Faulkner as part of the Pendle Walking Festival in August 2015. Details of the walk can be found on our website www.earbyhistory.co.uk



GARDEN ARCHAEOLOGY

Vic Maw with additional material by Bob Abel



Whilst clearing a patch of ground in my garden which had lain undisturbed for a good number of years I dug up a brick which appeared to have some letters imprinted on it. At first sight I saw the words Armitage and Elizabeth. It wasn't until I took the brick inside and cleaned it that I could make out the full inscription which read Armitage, Elizabeth II, 1953.



Immediately I recalled that the deeds of my house said that it was built in 1953, one of the last of the houses built to replace the North Holme Estate war time prefabs. I suspect that the plot of land was used as the builders' compound during the building works in the early 1950s.

The prefab houses were only built with a limited life expectancy "for the duration of the emergency" i.e. for war time. When the war ended in 1945 it was obvious that it would be a considerable time before the country got back on its feet. Some food rationing didn't end until 1953.

Negotiations for transfer of the prefab estate from the Ministry of Works to the Earby UDC were started in 1945/6 and it wasn't until 1950 that they were being concluded. The Council resolved that the prefabs be demolished and, because of the need to complete the project quickly, "non-traditional-type dwellings would be erected" and that a complete survey of the estate be carried out to ascertain bedroom requirements for the tenants to decide which type of dwelling would be appropriate. The prefabs were becoming worse for wear and some were unoccupied being unfit for use. A Spooner design of timber framed construction was opted for with two or three bedrooms.

In July 1951, after five years of negotiations with government ministries and various planning authorities, the first sod was cut for the redevelopment of the estate. It was estimated that the building of 150 houses would take three years. In 1952 The Craven Herald reported that of the first phase of 50 houses only twelve had been occupied. A further 16 were under construction of which ten were nearing completion. Progress had been painfully slow caused, not least, by a lack of skilled workmen in the area.

Armitage's brick works was an old established family business from Wakefield, an area south of Leeds. The history of the company has been traced back to 1824 when stonemason John Armitage joined fellow masons to work a quarry at Robin Hood. In 1864 one of

his sons established the firm of George Armitage and Sons, also at Robin Hood, and expanded into brick making by exploiting the blue shale or marl which was found along with the sandstone.

Toward the end of the 19th century, George Armitage and Sons took over the Woodlesford quarries where their speciality was the production of large grinding wheels. There was also a source of marl clay and in 1907 they opened a brick works where they installed coal fired Hoffman continuous kilns for the manufacture of the bricks.

After the clay at Woodlesford was exhausted, another brickworks was opened at Swillington in 1952, and by 1974, when they celebrated their 150th anniversary, Armitages were producing 64 million bricks a year.

Eventually, in 1988, the firm was sold to Marshalls of Halifax and later to Hanson, but even today the name of Armitage survives in the brick making business through John Armitage's descendant, David Armitage, who runs the York Handmade Brick Company.

How many Coronation bricks were manufactured in 1953 I do not know it may have been in the hundreds of thousands or more.

YORKSHIRE CONNECTIONS WITH CORNWALL

Peter Dawson and Bob Abel

Peter Dawson asked if I could type up some notes of his on the lead mines at Cononley and Glusburn and this led to some interesting research.

Lead mining on the Glusburn and Cononley Moors can be traced back at least to the reign of Henry VIII when the King gave a grant for the working of lead.

In the early 1800s Cornwall and West Devon was pre-eminent in mining expertise in Europe and had begun to export its technology, capital and skilled labour. The Duke of Devonshire, who owned many of the lead mine sites in the Yorkshire Dales, was quick to tap into this talent.

Stephen Eddy, who was born in Redruth in Cornwall in 1801, was the mine agent for the Duke of Devonshire and was living in Linton in 1841. By 1851 he had moved back south to Stoke Damarel in Devon where he described himself as a mining engineer. Two of his sons were to start in the mining industry, working as agent for the Duke of Devonshire at Cononley Mine. Stephen Ray Eddy is recorded in the 1841 census boarding at the school run by Matthew Smith in Carleton-in-Craven and James is still living with his parents in Linton.

By 1851 Stephen Ray Eddy is recorded as mineral agent, address given as Mine Office in Cononley, and born in Flintshire. Stephen was to have a change of career for in 1854 he entered Cambridge University to study for an MA and was later ordained as a minister in the Church of England.

In 1851 James Ray Eddy was visiting Kendal and is described as articled Clerk to a civil engineer. In 1861 and 1871 James' occupation is Mining and Civil Engineer and he was living at the Grange in Carleton. By 1881 he styles himself as Lead Mining Engineer

employing six agents, two clerks and 360 men. In 1891 he is a mining engineer and farmer and by 1901 he has retired from mining and is concentrating on farming.

He was a Fellow of The Geological Society and a life member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

In July 1859, James married Elizabeth Jane Chubb at the Priory Church of St Mary and St Michael in Cartmel, his brother Stephen officiating. Elizabeth's father was Samuel Chubb described as Paper Manufacturer and James' father is recorded as Stephen Eddy an Agent. One has to wonder how James came to marry in Cartmel. Elizabeth's place of residence is given as Holker which may give the couple a connection through the Duke of Devonshire. Holker Hall is one of the Devonshire's estates and perhaps Elizabeth worked there. James was a mining agent for the Duke of Devonshire. They had two sons, Stephen and Charles Edward who were both destined to study at Cambridge University like their uncle Stephen Ray Eddy. However tragic fate was to intervene. Stephen had already started at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Charles Edward was due to start at Clifton College. In the Spring of 1880 Charles was visiting his brother Stephen at Cambridge. They decided to hire a couple of canoes and row up the River Granta at Granchester. No one witnessed the incident but both brothers were found drowned in the river. Evidence was given at the inquest that one of the canoes was discovered to be capsized and it was surmised that one brother had gone into the water and the other had tried to rescue him resulting in them both losing their lives. Charles was an excellent swimmer but Stephen a novice. A verdict of Accidental Death was recorded with death due to asphyxiation by drowning.

This must have been a devastating blow to their parents James Ray and Elizabeth Jane, to lose both their sons in such circumstances when they were both on the threshold of adult life and with excellent prospects.

James died at the York Retreat in 1918. This Retreat was established by the Quakers in 1796 as an institution for people with mental health issues. In his will he left £69,000 (equivalent to over £4m today) to be shared equally between his four sisters.

As the four spinster sisters had no immediate family to provide for they decided to use some of the money for a good cause. The sisters Mary, Harriet, Amy and Charlotte were living in Torquay in Devon in the early 1920s

The "Cornishman and Cornwall Telegraph" for August 29th 1923 headlined "The Penlee Lifeboat –Impressive ceremony at Penzance – Formal Naming and reception of Boat". The sisters had used a portion of their inheritance to finance a new lifeboat for Penlee lifeboat station in Newlyn Harbour, its first motorised craft. They also paid for alterations to the lifeboat station to accommodate the new craft. The new lifeboat was dedicated to their nephews drowned at Cambridge in 1880 and it was named "The Brothers".

THE COMMUNITIES WHO SAID NO

The theme of Cyril Pearce's talk in September was war resisters during World War I. His interest in Conscientious Objectors (COs) was kindled by hearing the memories of surviving COs in Huddersfield in the 1960s. Cyril is a former Senior Lecturer in the School of Continuing Education and Social Studies, University of Leeds. He retired in 2004 and is now Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History.

A conscientious objector (CO) is an individual who has claimed the right to refuse to perform military service on the grounds of freedom of thought, conscience and/or religion.

Cyril gave several examples of reasons for refusing to do military service. The main objections were political or religious. The Independent Labour Party and the British Socialist Party considered the war as a capitalist struggle for empire and markets with absolutely no benefit to the working man. Religious objections were mainly through the Quaker movement, which was pacifist in its teachings.

From several sources Huddersfield seemed to be a place where there was a relatively large number of COs who were in general tolerated. Cyril wondered if Huddersfield was unique in this aspect and began research to find out the picture in a wider framework.

Over the years, Cyril has built up a data base of COs now numbering over 17,000 names (The Pearce Register *). The 1911 census reports categorised the population by sex and age in each area and by extrapolating the number boys and men who would have been eligible by age at the outbreak of war for military service a comparison of men eligible and COs for different areas could be drawn up, the CO Index.

This threw up some interesting facts. Huddersfield as Cyril expected had a relatively high Index, but the rural district of Settle had one of the highest indexes. Cyril demonstrated other instances of anomalies which needed explanation.

The Settle (thinly populated in comparison to the urban conurbations) figure was influenced by two factors. There was a large Quaker following in the area with High and Low Bentham in particular having strong Quaker meetings. The Quakers were anti-war on ethical and religious grounds. There was also a strong Independent Labour Party connection in the area. Furthermore, Rawlinson Charles Ford, a Quaker manufacturer, organised meetings of the No Conscription Fellowship in the meeting house in Low Bentham. Here classes were held to instruct potential COs how to deal with the tribunals they would have to face where they would have to justify their reasons for refusing military service.

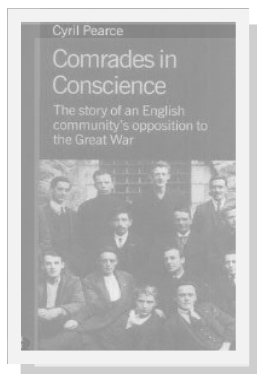
By contrast some of the cotton towns of East Lancashire, particularly what is now Pendle, had a high CO index through mainly political grounds. Nelson in particular was a hot bed of socialism. The Independent Labour Party was very strong in the area and they had a policy of "no war".

There were basically two types of CO. The absolutists who would have nothing to do with the war at all and others who could be persuaded to take up non-combat duties in the forces, as stretcher bearers and ambulance drivers for example. The absolutists faced prison with hard labour and many absconded, travelling round the countryside camping out or living in safe houses. Clarion House near Newchurch-in-Pendle belonged to the ILP and it is said that COs were warned that the police were there by the flying of the red flag at half-mast.

Earby has its own stories to tell about COs. Arthur Denby Wilkinson, in an interview for the Imperial War Museum, related how he was arrested for ignoring his call-up-papers and taken to court in Skipton. When he was sent to the army he refused to put his uniform on when told to do so and was eventually sentenced to prison and spent time in Wormwood Scrubs and Lincoln Gaol. After the war, he and his family left Earby to farm in Norfolk.

Katherine Bruce Glasier, who came to live in Earby after the war, was a founder member of the ILP and as such she campaigned against the war both through speeches at anti-war rallies and with the pen.

The talk was well researched and informative but Cyril made no judgments on the rights and wrongs of COs for that is up to the individual to decide.



* Pearce Register of British Conscientious Objectors

<https://search.livesofthefirstworldwar.org/search/world-records/conscientious-objectors-register-1914-1918>

Further reading on the subject is the recently republished "Comrades in Conscience – The Story of an English Communities Opposition to the Great War" by Cyril Pearce published by Francis Boutle

EARBY AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY IN GERMANY WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION

Bob Abel

"The impact of World War I in Marl and its twin towns Pendle, Creil, Zalaegerszeg and Kusadasi"

An exhibition on the First World War was organised by the Marl History Workshop (Marler Geschichtswerkstatt) to coincide with the celebration of 20 years of Marl's twinning with Pendle and 40 years with Creil. Marl's twin towns, Pendle (UK), Creil (France), Zalaegerszeg (Hungary) and Kursadasi (Turkey), were invited to take part.

Marl is an industrial town and a municipality in the district of Recklinghausen, in North Rhine-Westphalia. Its population is about 90,000 and its existence is based on coal mining. Unfortunately mining is coming to an end this year with the closure of its last coal mine. Its other main industry is the manufacture of chemicals.

Earby and District Local History Society were honoured to represent Pendle and Chairman Bob Abel and Helen Horner were present on behalf of the Society at the event.

The Earby delegation travelled by car and ferry to Marl to take a section of the History Society's own World War I exhibition which was held in Earby twelve months previously. The exhibition boards contributed by Earby described the initial call to arms, the fate of conscientious objectors, the role of horses in the conflict and panels dedicated to individuals and families who were affected in different ways by the war. Also included were six panels representing all those men recorded on our local war memorials at Earby, Kelbrook, Salterforth and Thornton-in-Craven.

Although the exhibition had been on view for a couple of days beforehand the official



Host Hans Henning Otto with Bob Abel and Helen Horner at the exhibition

opening by the Mayor of Marl, Herr Werner Amdt, took place on Thursday 1st October. Herr Amdt stressed the need to remind the current generation of the consequences of war and Dr. Hans Ulrich Berendes, head of the History Workshop, expressed his gratitude to the contributors: "Without the many contacts of the twinning associations this exhibition would never have been possible."

Marl's presentation included a section on letters and cards sent by soldiers to their families and photographs from the period. One member of the Marl History Workshop, whose grandfather was held as a prisoner-of-war in Stobs camp near Hawick in Scotland, had done extensive research on life in the camp. Initially used as an army training camp, by late 1914, it was announced that Stobs would be used to house German POWs. Although prisoners were set to work on local farms or construction projects in the camp, boredom was an ever present problem and the prisoners did their utmost to make life bearable. They made toys from any scraps of wood and bone; they produced their own newspaper and formed a football team

One section of Marl's exhibits featured post-war social and political unrest in the town and Germany in general (as there was also in Great Britain). The world was a different place after the war. Germany was crippled by the demand for reparations, particularly from Belgium and France, whose heavy industry and agriculture suffered badly during the war. There was rampant inflation which saw the highest denomination note rise from 1000 marks to 100 billion marks between 1922 and 1924. Civil and Industrial unrest was rife.

From Creil there were pictures and information about living conditions in the town at the start of WWI when the town came under attack by the German Army. From Zalaegerszeg in Hungary there were contemporary newspaper articles describing living conditions in the town. From Kusadasi in Turkey was a description of the town being bombarded by the French navy in May 1915. The town was shelled a total of eleven times between 1912 and 1916. Turkey had been at war with Italy and Greece since 1912.

Space prevents a fuller description of the exhibition but suffice it to say it was interesting to compare and contrast the experiences of the five towns during the Great War.



Mayor of Pendle Nawaz Ahmed and wife Azmat , Mayoress at the exhibition

As an interesting foot note, Marl had its own “Ranch” albeit on a much larger scale and a generation earlier than Earby. In the late 19th century Marl was a small village of some 400 farming families and agricultural workers. Early in the 1900s coal mining was started in the area and with no manpower to work the mines people were brought in to work in them. They came from the east, mostly from East Prussia. A purpose built settlement was established for these migrant workers and there was little integration with the locals. The incomers had a different culture and spoke with a strange accent. This led to much suspicion and tension between the two groups much like that between the

Rover workers who came up to live on the Ranch in Earby during WWII.

POST SCRIPT

Having spent a few days walking in the Scottish Borders, we were walking one day from Hawick when I remembered that the POW camp featured in the Marl exhibition was only a few miles away from where our walk began; so I decided to try and find the site. A member of the Marl History Workshop’s grandfather was imprisoned in Stobs camp from 1916 to 1919.

We eventually found the site of the Stobs camp and there were surprisingly plenty of traces of the camp (which opened in 1903 and closed in 1959) remaining . It was originally used as a training camp for Scottish regiments but during the First World War it was used to house German prisoners of war.

There was plenty of evidence of the concrete bases of the huts and several concrete block houses remain intact . The railway from Carlisle to Edinburgh (long since closed) passed close by and the camp had its own railway connection. It wasn’t hard to imagine train loads of German soldiers arriving in this somewhat isolated location. One long wooden hut remained on the site but since the camp didn’t close until 1959 I am not sure whether this is contemporary with the original buildings of the camp or a later replacement but comparing the surviving hut with a WWI photograph both have twelve windows along the length. More information about the camp can be found at the following website.
<http://stobs-camp.bizhat.com>

LOCAL RAILWAYS

Robin Higgins was the guest speaker at our October meeting. Robin is a founder member and director of the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway Preservation Society. His talk was entitled Local Railways and was based on his extensive knowledge of the Earby to Barnoldswick branch line in particular.

The railway came to Earby in 1848 as part of the Leeds and Bradford Extension Rail-



way to link up with the East Lancashire Railway's line from Preston to Colne. Thus, in 1849, a direct trans-Pennine route was formed. The Barnoldswick branch from Earby was opened in 1871.

Robin's presentation included some old and rare images of the branch line including a set of photographs of the Barnoldswick goods-yard improvements in 1913. It is surprising the amount of goods and number of passengers carried on line in the early 20th century. In 1912 there was an average of 178 passengers a day using the Barnoldswick line.

The main line through Earby had a good service with through trains to Manchester, Liverpool and even a through train to London Euston.

Several photographs compared scenes taken at different times in the railway's history. We saw the old push and pull trains in which the driver could control the engine from the rear carriage which saved the need for the engine being run round the train for the return journey.

Safety on the line from Sough to Barnoldswick was maintained using a typical single track branch line operation (collisions were more likely to happen on single track sections of line). The train driver was handed a token by the signalman at Barnoldswick Junction signal box. Without the token the driver was not allowed to proceed. There was only one token therefore only one train was allowed to progress along the line at a time. Several pictures showed this ritual covering a number of years.

Earby had a busy little station as shown by several views but Thornton-in-Craven station was very run down for many years. The final few slides showed the dilapidated state of Earby station before it was completely demolished.

AN EARBY GHOST STORY FROM 50 YEARS AGO

In Earby haunted house walks a ghostly lady with buttoned boots

Reproduced from the Craven Herald January 1965 by Editor of Chronicles

Do you believe in ghosts? Probably not! Most people are sceptics, and so was Mr Barry Clifton of Barnoldswick, until he saw one. "I always thought there were three explanations for ghosts – lunacy, a joke or hallucination" declared Mr Clifton. "I might have still thought I was having hallucinations if some of my workmates had not seen it too."

"It" is a woman, aged about 65 who put judo expert Mr Clifton to flight without a

fight. It happened in Earby when he was spending a few days with his friend, Mr Harry Ramsbottom, of 309 Colne Road, Sough, Earby. "I was looking for a pair of cufflinks in a suitcase I had upstairs, and at that time we did not have a proper light as we had not got round to that part of the house. When the fuel in my lighter failed, as I was going upstairs, I went back and got a spill. I was going upstairs very slowly, shielding the light, and as I neared the top of the stairs I saw a pair of black boots, with buttons up the side, on the top step. I shouted to Harry 'What are these boots doing here?' He didn't hear me. As I moved the spill higher, I saw a figure of a woman standing there. She was wearing a black frock, white apron and blouse with a lace top, a high black velvet collar, with a brooch of a young woman's head, and a black shawl. All of a sudden I realised there was just Harry and me in the house. I backed down two steps, then turned round and leapt down the rest. I broke the bottom step when I landed on it. From my finger tips to my toes, my flesh was creeping; I was shivering and shaking. Harry made me some coffee, but I felt very bad and about an hour later I was sick."



Since then Mr Clifton has been back up the stairs about nine times, and seen the apparition on five occasions. "It is necessary to stay quite still for a few minutes on about the fourth step from the top" Mr Clifton says. "She doesn't appear right away, but after a few minutes she does, and several blokes from Bristol Tractors I work with have also seen it with me."

Mr Clifton has made some enquiries and understands that a woman answering the description died in the house in 1884. He also understands that the previous occupant, Mr W Banks, has seen it on four or five occasions, and his wife even more often than that.

"Has she spoken to Mr Clifton?" the reporter asked. "Yes, but I am not prepared to say what she said until someone else has heard her. I want everything about this to be corroborated" Mr Clifton declared. He said doors which were firmly closed, opened for no reason; he had broken one which had unaccountably opened, dragging at the knob to discover just what strain it would stand.

One of Mr Clifton's friends who claims to have seen the apparition, is 23 year old Norman Gifford of Barnoldswick. Over six feet tall, he told our reporter that what he saw made his hair stand on end, turned him sick, and made him determined not to return to the house again. "As we went through the door at the bottom of the stairs, it was very cold, and then a little way up it became quite warm, and then three steps from the top, cold again. At the top of the stairs is a door, and I pulled it to firmly, made sure it was on the catch, and then we crouched down to wait. Something moved to the left, and we crouched down waiting. Something then appeared, and I saw it was the figure of a woman. She crouched down as we were doing. As we straightened up, so did she and I could distinctly hear her knee joints cracking as she got up. I shall never go there again."

Mr Clifton said "I would have thought it was hallucinations with me if my workmates had not seen it too." Two others who had been with him and seen it were Jack Honey and Clifford Butterworth. As the figure appeared the brown grained door appeared to be blue.

And what about the present owner, Mr Harry Ramsbottom, formerly of Skipton? “I have not seen it and am not in the least worried” he said. “I am sure if I live to be 90, I shall never see it, but I admit Harry was terrified. He jumped down the stairs and cracked the bottom one. All the colour drained from his face. Many people have been to the house since, and apart from those who say they have seen the ghost, others say they have seen something like a heat haze and the stairs move.” But Mr Clifton says there is no hope of Mr Ramsbottom seeing it, unless he is quiet. “He bangs upstairs and she won’t come then” he insists.

It is not clear exactly when the houses were built, but records of Earby Urban Council show that it was before 1892. Over the years there have been reports from time to time of apparitions being seen in the Sough area, including the Memorial Gardens.

Craven and the First World War – John Granville Berry

‘Craven and the First World War’, is a project organised by a collection of community-focused groups who have come together to arrange various commemorative events to mark the centenary of the First World War. The group has devised a project that aims to build a greater understanding of life in Craven during the First World War, whilst honouring those who lost their lives and loved ones during the years of fighting. The co-ordinator is Rob Freeman based at Craven Museum in Skipton.

A project was organised with West Craven High School in Barnoldswick through history teacher Lianne Abram and Barnoldswick Library and the Society was asked to help.

Lianne explains—“the project came about as a result of Rob Freeman from Craven District Council contacting me. He has conducted similar projects with other schools across the Craven area and as Barnoldswick was once part of Craven extended the offer to West Craven High School. I was delighted for our school to be involved as we study the First World War and allowed us to incorporate a local history study into the scheme of work, something which is required as part of the History National Curriculum. Finally it gave students the opportunity to research using methods that aren't regularly used in the classroom.”

Two sessions for year nine students were held at Barnoldswick library where the resources to discover the story of Lieutenant John Granville Berry were made available including contemporary newspapers, census returns, school documents, letters, pictures, maps and books (Including our own Earby in the First World War).

In a follow up session in school they used the results of their research when the students were asked to imagine it was 1919 and write an obituary for John Granville Berry who was missing presumed dead while on active service in France.

We reproduce two examples of these obituaries.



John Granville Berry

It is with great sadness, that in a letter to his parents, the death of Earby soldier John Granville Berry was confirmed. His parents, William and Elizabeth Berry, were told his death date was the 16th August 1917, over two years before the letter was received.

He was born on the 29th July 1897 and lived at Hawthorne House, Earby.

John attended Ermysteds Grammar School before leaving on the 29th April 1909, after four years, to work in Spring Mill where his father was a manufacturer. John enlisted in the army in February 1916 and has received the Military Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty for taking control of his company for two days when his commander was injured.

John went missing in action and was presumed dead, which was not confirmed until recently as too much time has elapsed and no one could survive that long. No body has been found.

He will be sorely missed in the community and will be remembered for his services to King and Country.

Earby Soldier Presumed Dead While Serving in the Army

Sadly, John Granville Berry, a soldier from Earby, was reported missing and most likely deceased on the 16th of August 1917 by the War Office.

John Granville Berry was born on 29th July 1897 and attended Ermysteds Grammar School for four years as a day scholar. He lived with his parents, William Nehemiah Berry and Elizabeth Ann Berry and his brother William Ervin Berry. While at school his hobbies were cricket and debating.

After leaving school he worked in his father's cotton mill, Spring Mill, on Stoney Bank Lane. John didn't enlist into the army until February 1915 and this may have been because he was helping his father with the mill or perhaps he was forced to join up.

While in the army John was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty and also for displaying most remarkable initiative and determination. Tragically, in 1918, after John was presumed dead, William Berry asked the War Office for information about his son. William discovered that John was shot in the arm and may have ended up in a German prison camp and that John most likely died in a German hospital.

John will be remembered as a brave man and he will be sorely missed by his friends and family.

READERS LETTER

John Tolson writes

I just wanted to say how much I appreciated Bob's research on Waterloo published in the previous Chronicles.

John Riddihough aka Tom Redall was the brother of Alice Slater nee Riddihough my GGG grandmother. I'd done some research but hit a wall trying to establish his regiment once it was clear that he hadn't been at Waterloo. As you have been able to establish that John joined the 7th Hussars I thought that I might try their museum next - if that gets me anywhere interesting I'll let you know.

My Slater/ Riddihough/ Crowther/ Lowcock forebears had a close association with Fiddling Clough during most of the nineteenth century. Stephanie Carter wrote a great article in the Chronicles seven or eight years ago based on her mother's memories of living there in the 1920s. Fascinating and gave a vivid feel for what life was like up there, probably not that different from Victorian times.

Thanks also for the Chronicles generally. Such an entertaining source of enjoyment, information and local colour. Helps to fill the gaps as I've visited Earby just twice - In the 50s as an eight year old to see Allen Dickinson an elderly relative (cousin of my mother's who lived in Brook Street and probably only in his 50s!) and a soaking wet day in July 2007, which put a particularly realistic perspective on the hardships of life at Fiddling Clough.

I would welcome any comments from readers of the Chronicles which might shed further light on particular individuals mentioned above.

John can be contacted via e-mail wormald47@hotmail.com or via the editor.

PROGRAMME

January 19th	Jean Robinson	Raikes Road Cemetery and Victorian Skipton
February 16th	AGMplus Railway Images from the Archives	
March 15th	Sue Hayter	My Convict Ancestors

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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. (except for outside visits).

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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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