

Earby Chronicles

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www.earbyhistory.co.uk



THORNTON-IN-CRAVEN STATION

OPENED OCTOBER 1848 CLOSED FEBRUARY 1970

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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THORNTON - IN - CRAVEN STATION

Editor

The railway station was opened in October 1848. Down the years there were a varying number of departures in each direction. The station house, set back from the up platform was probably built at the beginning of the 20th century. As road transport improved there was more competition for the railway and a disadvantage was that the station was situated at the bottom of Station Road (Booth Bridge Lane), some way from the village.

The cricket and sports field at the bottom of Booth Bridge Lane at the other side of the former railway line, has been the home of Thornton Cricket Club since 1898.

In the severe winter of 1947, approaching Earby station from Thornton, a goods train stuck in a snow drift. Attempts to tow it free failed and resulted in two trucks being derailed. Single line traffic was necessary and trains operated under a pilot.

In July 1948 an 18-year-old motor cyclist and his pillion passenger, an 18-year-old girl, were killed when their motor cycle was struck by a train on the level crossing adjoining the railway station. They were Peter Mellor of Earby and Barbara Ibbotson from Barnoldswick. Peter Mellor was a member of the Thornton Cricket team and was on his way to play in a match when the accident happened. The motor cycle was hit by a train coming round the bend from the Earby direction and the two young people were killed instantly. It was a great tragedy.

In February 1949 Thornton station was one from which the Railway Executive was considering withdrawing passenger facilities as an economy move. In November 1953 the British Transport Commission gave notice of its intention to close the station. Further consideration was deferred pending observations from Thornton Parish Council. They in turn asked MP Mr Drayson to meet representatives to make representations to the Minister of Transport against the contemplated closure.

Thornton station escaped the Beeching cuts of 1960s and was open and staffed throughout the 1960s. The station was closed to passengers, and indeed closed completely in February 1970.

EARBY TO BARNOLDSWICK – THE BARLICK SPUD

Bob Abel



Last Train to Barnoldswick

In 1848 the Skipton to Colne section of the Leeds and Bradford extension line was opened to form a trans-Pennine link with the East Lancashire Railway at Colne.

There had been attempts to get a railway to Barnoldswick prior to the Skipton - Colne line which came to nothing and therefore the town was bypassed.

During the early 1860s a group of Barnoldswick mill owners and business men formed the Barnoldswick Railway Company to bring the benefits of a rail connection to their town. They obtained an act of par-

liament in 1865 for the construction of a single track line from a junction with the Skipton – Colne line to Barnoldswick with no intermediate station at Salterforth.

Construction began in 1867 and the line opened on February 8th 1871 and was leased to the Midland Railway to operate who eventually took full control of the line in 1899.

The old railway station at Earby was due to be upgraded for the extra traffic but this did not happen until 1884/5. The Midland Railway had a bigger project on at the same time, the building of the Settle - Carlisle Line (1869-76). It was reported in the Craven Herald on 1st March 1884 as follows-

The Station – It will be interesting to the public to learn that active operations have now commenced at this place for the purpose of improving the accommodation. A large staff of men under Mr Kirk, Skipton, are now employed digging up the stones that were brought onto the ground a good many years since to be used for the then contemplated improvement. We understand that the first work to be done to be the building of broader and longer platforms on which the men are now busily employed.

In the early days the trains were composed of both passenger coaches and goods wagons together and a shuttle service connected Barnoldswick with Earby station on the main line. By 1903 there were 11 trains a day in both directions with extra services on Saturdays.

In 1904 attempts were made by the Barnoldswick and Gisburn Light Railway Company to convert Barnoldswick into a through station with a line to connect to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway at Gisburn but that was abandoned as the L&YR would not give consent for a junction to their line.

The 1930s saw a drastic fall in passenger numbers on the line when the new road from Barnoldswick to Kelbrook was completed and buses began to compete with the railway.

To try and compensate for this, a more economical method of operating was introduced. Instead of having to run the engine round the

train at Barnoldswick for the return journey to Earby, Push and Pull trains were introduced. These were specially adapted trains whereby the engine driver could control the engine from the last coach in push mode, the fireman remaining on the engine footplate at the other end of the train. Also the number of trains per day was increased, with some through trains to Skipton.

The 1950s saw a gradual run down of services but many people will remember the school service taking boys and girls to Ermysted's and The Girls High School in Skipton.

School season tickets were eventually withdrawn and the schools traffic transferred to road transport and in 1963 the line was recommended for closure. This took effect on 27th September 1965 when passenger services were withdrawn although the line continued to be used for coal trains until the following year.

I am sure there will be many memories of the Barlick Spud Roaster which the editor would be glad to hear about for possible publication in future editions.

Further detail about the line can be found at -

www.disused-stations.org.uk

A SPOOKY TALE - RICHARD WELBURY SHUTTLEWORTH

Stephanie Carter (née Shuttleworth)



As described in my book “Earby in the First World War – Waiting for the Dawn of Peace” published in 2014 by EDLHS, and in Steven Marshall’s book “Our Finest Crop” published in 2020 by EDLHS, Second Lieutenant Richard Welbury Shuttleworth was a casualty of the First World War.

Richard Welbury was the youngest son of Charles Shuttleworth and a second cousin of

my grandfather Emanuel Shuttleworth of North Holme Farm. Charles Shuttleworth (born 1852) was originally in the building trade in Barnoldswick. He also tried his hand at farming at Lower Hill Top (Grange Farm) and took the Punch Bowl Inn for a short time, prior to going into cotton manufacturing at Victoria Mill. He married Ann Shuttleworth of Thornton Hall and the couple lived at Beech Cliff near the Old Grammar School. They had six children – George (who took over the mill after his father's death in 1913), Edgar, Richard Welbury, Annie, Clara and Elizabeth.

As stated in our publications: "Richard Welbury Shuttleworth was killed in a flying accident in August 1918. He was 24 years of age and had Attested into the Army Reserve in December 1915 and mobilised a year later. He joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and after getting his Commission served three months with them in France, where in November 1917 he was wounded by shell shrapnel in the back of his thigh. On recovery he was transferred to the Royal Air Force, in which he qualified as a pilot. He was testing a new aeroplane at Stamford, Lincolnshire where he was killed. His remains were brought home for interment at Thornton Church"

16.8.18 R.E.8 B7695, 1 TDS, Stamford
Stalled on low turn and spun, Stamford
2Lt Richard Welbury Shuttleworth (24) killed
2Lt Edward Morton Drummond injured (pilot)



Looking through newspapers on "findmypast" recently for further information on my Shuttleworth relatives, I was fascinated to discover the following in the "Buckinghamshire Examiner" 12th November 1926:

"The Airman's Promise

In the course of the letter he wrote to the Sunday Chronicle Mr Wynn stated - Two years after the war broke out, a splendid fellow by the name of Welberry (*Welbury*) Shuttleworth of Earby, Yorkshire, came to stay with me before going to join the Air Force. He promised me on leaving that if he "crossed over" he would come with my son Rupert to see me and prove his existence. I am certain he fulfilled his promise, which had passed out of my mind. In three weeks he was "gone", to my infinite sorrow. A few months rolled by. One Sunday afternoon I returned home from my Bible class and found my wife was excited. "I have had a time", she said. "There must have been an aeroplane somewhere, but it was not outside; and the windows have been rattling, but there has been no wind". "Oh" I said "it is the gas or water pipes". "Not so" she replied, "I tell you it was an aeroplane. The sound was in the house, but when I went up the garden to see it, I could see and hear nothing".

Falling Plane Phenomena

I resolved to be at home the next Sunday at the same time with plenty of witnesses. At the same moment as before the marvellous phenomena started. Nine people heard it. Not a sound outside! I walked all over the house. It followed me. "Rupert", I said "if this demonstration comes from you and dear Shuttleworth, who is fulfilling his promise, cease to give the proof". The noise ceased instantly, and we have never heard it since. Nine Chesham people are prepared to swear to the truth of my statements. How does my deduction, that immediate human survival is a fact, interfere with my being an evangelical of the evangelicals? I shall be glad to know. By no twist of the mind can any rational explanation be given of the case I relate except that Shuttleworth gave an astounding proof of his presence. He was killed by the fall of an aeroplane, and the sound that followed me all over the house was that of a moving and crashing machine."

FURTHER RESEARCH

The above named son of "Mr Wynn" was **Clifford Rupert Wynn** who was born in the Manse, Earby in 1898. His parents were Rev. Walter

Wynn, Baptist minister, who was born in Cheltenham, and Melissa who was born in Bradford. He had an older sister Edith Annie Wynn who was also born in Earby.

On the 1911 census the Wynn family were living in Bellingdon Road, Chesham, Bucks., where Walter Wynn was the minister of Chesham UFC (Unitarian). Clifford Rupert was 13. He was attested into the army aged 18, when described as a clerk, joining the Royal Army Service Corps as a Private. He was killed in action on 16th February 1917, aged 19, and is buried in Boulogne Cemetery.

Rev. Walter Wynn

Rev. Walter Wynn came to Earby as Baptist minister in 1893. He had formerly been minister at Sandy Lane Baptist Chapel, Bradford. He was a controversial minister and there was some discord between him and the deacons at the chapel. He published a monthly magazine, the "Onward March" and set up a series of men's meetings. He was a prominent and forthright speaker, and attracted large congregations, addressing meetings throughout the north. He spoke on subjects which included peace, the education bill, character and empire and politics, considering at one point standing as the anti-war candidate for Skipton. In 1900 he was fined 20 shillings for refusing to comply with the vaccination law. He was invited to become pastor of the Baptist Church in Praed Street, London, but this was refused by the unanimous request of the Earby church.

Towards the end of his ministry in Earby in January 1903 the following insert was posted in the Lancashire Evening Post: "Illness of the Rev. Walter Wynn of Earby – It is understood that the Rev. Walter Wynn, the well-known Baptist minister of Earby, is about to start for the West Indies, where he is going for the benefit of his health. Recently he has suffered from a breakdown of the nervous system, and it is upon medical advice that he intends taking a sea voyage."

In 1904 Walter Wynn and his family moved to Buckinghamshire where he became the pastor of Broadway Church, Chesham, the largest Baptist church in the county.

In 1917 his son Rupert was killed in action and Walter became interested in spiritualism. He published a book "Rupert Lives", in which he related how he established through Vango, one of the best-known and most successful London mediums, relations with his son. Following the War there had been a rise in spiritualism nurtured by "a will to believe" and many, including famous people of the day, declared their belief in the genuineness of spiritualistic phenomena and talking to the dead. One of these was Rev. Walter Wynn.

RICHARD WELBURY SHUTTLEWORTH MEMORIAL

A pupil of Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton, he is remembered, alongside many other past pupils who died in the 1st World War, on the Ermysted's Grammar School Roll of Honour 1916-1918.



VJ DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY

Editor

Reflecting on the excellent TV programme from the National Arboretum on the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day, my thoughts returned to the outstandingly brave men from our area who either gave their lives or were prisoners of war in the Far East. Some of these are outlined below and some prisoners of war were detailed in the Spring 2020 edition of the Chronicles.

Taken from Bob Abel's 2008 book "Remember Them":

Arnold Peckover from Salterforth, Sapper in the Royal Engineers

Reported missing March 1942. Prisoner of war in Japanese hands held in Malaya

Died 20 August 1943. Buried Thanbyuzayat war cemetery

Stanley Berry Gunner in Royal Artillery

Was in Burma for 4 years. Died a week after returning home from a convalescent home in Guildford

James Pickles Aircraftsman 1st Class RAF from Kelbrook

Admitted to hospital in Far East. Died March 1942. Remembered on the Singapore Memorial

Norman Pilkington Able Seaman Royal Navy from Earby

Ship HMS Prince of Wales torpedoed by the Japanese war planes in South China Sea

Died 10 December 1941

Donald Marsland Whitaker Royal Artillery Gunner from Kelbrook

Taken prisoner when part of a Search Light Unit in Singapore Malaya

Died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Thailand 22 June 1943

There were reports in the local press of the time on four of our local men held as prisoners of war by the Japanese – (Fell, Farnworth, Peckover and Ridge)

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT WORK – HAPPY GATHERING OF WORKERS AT J SLATER LTD. SALTERFORTH

December 1948 Barnoldswick and Earby Times

The progress of the rehabilitation of the weaving mill of James Slater Ltd. Salterforth since the factory was re-opened two and a half years ago after war-time closure was demonstrated by Mr G Green, Chairman of the Board of Directors in a brief speech at a Christmas dinner given to the work people by the company on Friday.

The fine canteen was decorated in fitting style for the festivities, an excellent dinner was served by the canteen staff. Mr J L Slater, a director of the firm, introduced Mr Green, who remarked that there were three essentials for an after-dinner speech. It should, he said, begin with wit and end cheerfully, but more important the part in-between should be as short as possible.

He was sorry they couldn't get someone like Wilfred Pickles for the event "There is no really great difference between the way he and I would give an address" Mr Green went on. "His technique is quite easily understood. He says How do, Ee I am glad you've come". The only difference comes when we've finished. You look at me and say "Ee I am glad he's done".

There was one thing the management wanted the workers to know. They spent an awful amount of time at their place of work –some might be thinking too much –and it was terribly important that they should be happy at work. He felt that a lot of people only thought of being happy at home, and even glad to get home. But it was important that working conditions should be equally happy. The responsibility of ensuring that rested on all, although primarily it rested on the management, and they were doing their utmost to make them happy.

He was proud to assist in running the firm. So far as the number of looms was concerned they had increased from 340 at Christmas

1947 to the present figure of 620, which from the point of view of production was good progress. They were doing all they could to modernise the mill in addition to introducing automatic looms, they intended introducing electric power; and even in the canteen they had ideas to make it even brighter.

After thanking Mrs Wilson, who was in charge of the canteen, he referred to the Social Committee who organised monthly social functions in the canteen, and announced that the firm would meet expenses of the hire of a hall and Eddie McGarry's Band for the works dance to be held in February, when the proceeds would be devoted to local charities. He also invited all work people to accept a bottle of wine after the dinner.

In conclusion Mr Green wished all "A Happy Christmas and Happy New Year".

Responding on behalf of the staff Mr D Snowden, the Shed Foreman, thanked the management for their splendid treatment "We must try to produce more both in quality and quantity in the year 1949" he declared. Mr T Bentley, head of the weaving department of the College of Technology Manchester, expressed his appreciation of the welcome whilst installing automatic looms, adding "May you all have good health in the year to come".

A further idea of the progress made at the mill was given by Mr J L Slater, who showed guests round prior to the dinner. In December 1945 only 80 looms were running. Now there were 209 operatives on the 620 looms, and every day new automatic looms were being brought into production. Early in the New Year the management expected to have the factory powered by electricity, retaining the shaft drives, and new machines were arriving for the expansion of the winding room – changes which would call for an expansion in the number of employees.

Two Further items from Barnoldswick and Earby Times December 1948: MR WRIGHT FIRTH, CHAIRMAN OF EARBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, WRITES:

"Just a few lines to wish all our readers a happy and prosperous New Year.

The duties of a councillor these days seem mostly concerned with the urgent need for housing the homeless and those compelled to share a house. Every claim for a house has something in it that arouses sympathy. The patience shown by those young married couples, many with small children, with their belongings all packed away for the day when they get into their own house, is really admirable. Also those young people they live with, many of them in small houses and in many cases with two women- not of the same blood- having to live and work together in the house; it is a great strain and worry. But you are doing the greatest good today, and I as Chairman of the Council am really proud of your help, and my councillors say the same.

Our programme for housing includes three types of three-bedroomed houses, two bedroomed houses and bungalows for old people. We have certain obligations to honour regarding houses, but we as a Council think that when the first 50 non-traditional type houses are built and occupied the consequent re-shuffle in houses will ease the situation considerably. Housing is our main problem, and the Council are really endeavouring to make the position easier by all the means in their power.

Everything in a town revolves around housing – roads, electricity, gas, sewers and water and if my New Year message has been all about homes I offer no apologies, for I believe our main task is the building of homes for the people. I wish you all a Happy New Year".

INVITATIONS

About 270 invitations to Earby and Kelbrook folk to attend a New Years' treat to be given by the local branch of the Old Age Pensioners Association on January 8th have been addressed by Mr H Waterworth of Shuttleworth Street Earby, and he will have a busy weekend deliv-

ering them. The treat is for all old folk over 65, regardless of membership of the Association. Quite a few of those invited are octogenarians. The tea will be served in three places, the George Street Methodist Schoolroom and the Albion Hall for Earby residents and the Bethel Methodist School room for the Kelbrook residents, then all will join together for the concert in the Albion Hall. The Gay Gardenias concert party will entertain and Mr A Oates will preside.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR – COMING SOON

To celebrate the opening 200 years ago, in 1821, of the first Methodist Chapel in Stoopes Hill, Stoney Bank, Earby is Stephanie's new book on Methodists in Earby, Kelbrook and Salterforth.

**A 19th CENTURY TAILOR'S WORKBOOK PART 2
JOHN SPENCER OF KELBROOK**

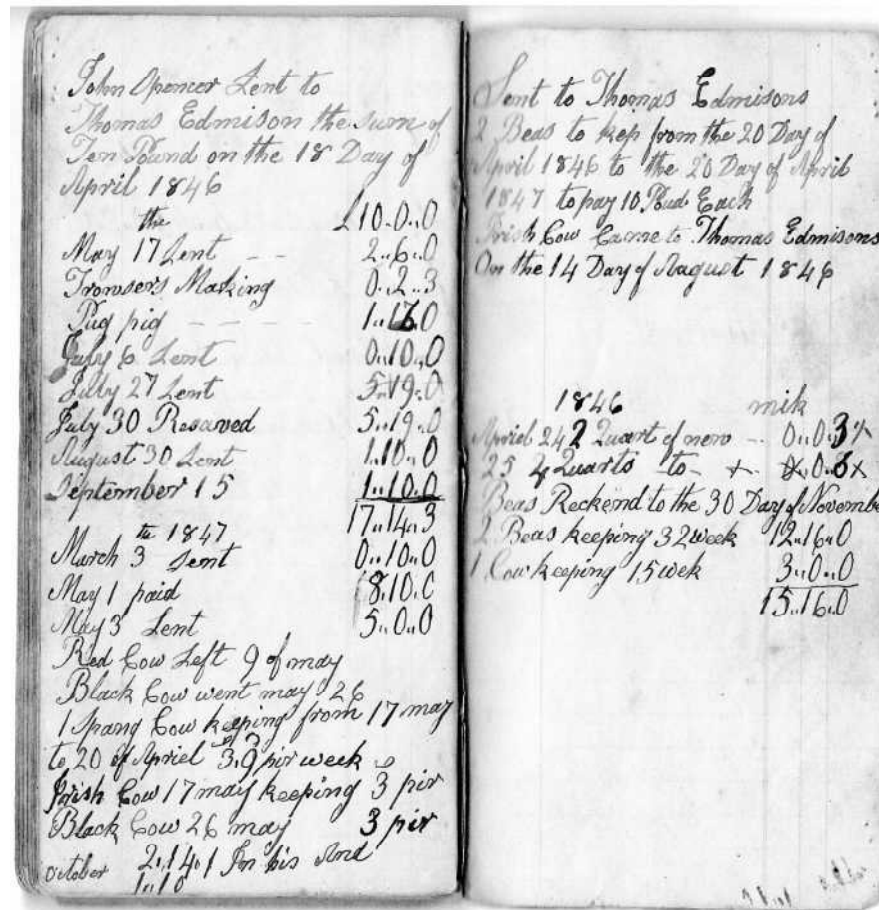
ELIGIBLE FREEHOLD MILL, COTTAGES,
AND PREMISES AT **KELBROOK**, IN THE PARISH OF THORNTON, IN CRAVEN, IN THE COUNTY OF YORK.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by Mr. ROBERT BROWN, at the House of Mr. Sagar, the King's Head Inn, in Colne, in the County of Lancaster, on Friday, the 23rd day of October, 1846, at Six o'Clock in the Evening precisely, by order of the Assignees of Mr. Stephen Hey, a bankrupt (subject to such conditions as shall be produced as the time of sale).
All that eligible and commodious Worsted or Cotton Spinning MILL, situated at Kelbrook, in the Parish of Thornton, in Craven, in the County of York, lately in the possession of Mr. Stephen Hey, with Water Power amply sufficient for turning machinery therein; also part of a 20 horse power steam engine in the said Mill, together with the Mill Dam, Watercourse, Boiler House, Coal Yard, Mill Yard, and other conveniences requisite for carrying on at the said Mill an extensive and lucrative business in the worsted and cotton trades; and also all those two substantial Cottages or Dwellinghouses, situated near or adjoining to the said Mill, and lately in the possession of the said Stephen Hey, or his Tenants; and also the Reversion in Fee expectant on the expiration of a term of 99 years, commencing at Lady Day, 1804, of and in all those 19 Cottages or Rooms, situate near to or adjoining the said Mill, and now, or late in the occupation of John Spencer, Henry Stanking, and others.
The above Property is of freehold tenure, and affords a very favourable opportunity for the investment of capital. It comprises (including the sites of the said Mill, Buildings, and Cottages) an area of 3,533 square yards, or thereabouts. From its locality, being situated 3 miles only from Colne, it is particularly adapted for carrying on advantageously the businesses of Worsted or Cotton Spinning and Manufacturing, and the Extension Line of the Leeds and Bradford Railway, now in the course of formation, will pass within a quarter of a mile of it.
Application to view the Property to be made on the Premises; and further particulars may be had on application to the Auctioneer, at Langroyd, near Colne aforesaid, or at the Office of Mr. WELLS, Solicitor, Bradford, Yorkshire.
Bradford, October 3, 1846.

John Spencer was busy making, altering and mending clothes for the villagers and farmers of Kelbrook, Harden, Earby and Lothersdale from his tailor's workplace in Dotcliffe throughout the 1840s and early 50s. In October 1846 John Smith of Lothersdale was charged £1. 5s 4d for 19 days work. In 1846 Dotcliffe Mill was up for sale together with 19 cottages near or adjoining the mill. One of these was occupied by John.

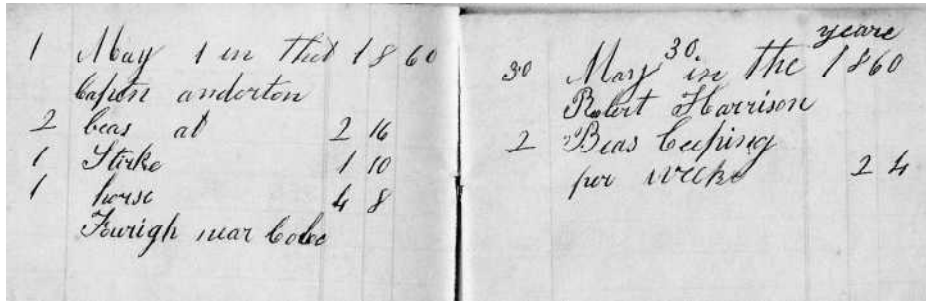
John also was involved in money lending. He lent a neighbouring farmer Thomas Edmison (Edmondson) of

Tunstead Farm £10.0.0. on 18th April 1846 and other amounts in the following months. He was also involved in "keeping" various cattle.

The 1841 census shows Thomas Edmondson, aged 28 farming at Tunstead. In 1851 he farmed 94 acres and employed three labourers. Something changed drastically in his life; for by the time of the 1861



census he was living at Rigby Farm, Little Marsden and his occupation was "railway labourer". In 1871, aged 57, he was living at Burnley Road Nelson and was a railway plate labourer. Thomas Edmondson died aged 72 in 1886 leaving £209.11.10 in his estate. Some time



prior to the 1861 census John Spencer, aged 61, moved to Woodside, Hainworth near Keighley where his occupation was “milk and coal dealer”. He also was involved in keeping animals for various people, an example being in 1860 for Mr Anderton of Foulridge and Robert Harrison.

John’s wife Agnes died in 1862 and John then lived with his daughter Ann Hodgeson in the hamlet of Harden, Ingrow in Hainworth, Keighley, where, aged 71 at the time of the 1871 census he was once again described as a tailor. He died in April 1879 aged 79 and is buried at the church of St. John, Ingrow with Hainworth.

A copy of John Spencer’s fascinating little workbook can be seen in the archives of Earby & District Local History Society.

KELBROOK MILL (DOTCLIFFE) PART 3

1930s ONWARDS

Stephanie Carter

Due to the economic downturn and the decline in the cotton industry following the First World War and competition from the Far East, Lancashire cotton workers experienced wage reductions and new working patterns. These caused recriminations and hostilities leading to industrial conflict, particularly the More Looms dispute.

The More Looms system was aimed to bring more looms into production using a reduced number of weavers. The weavers on more looms would be marginally better off. This would reduce costs and make the

industry more competitive. The Unions opposed the system largely as it didn’t pay workers enough.

Dotcliffe Mill was working under the Nelson Agreement and was not a member of any Manufacturer’s Associations. It was basically a non-union shop. In August 1930 Mr Procter, Secretary of the Springbank Weaving Co. Ltd. reported that they were experimenting with the 8 Loom System and paying the weavers a wage of 49s 4d per week. He said that the system was proving successful despite the unions being against the experiment.

In January 1931 16 weavers, non-unionists, were employed on the 8-loom system. 50 others were out on strike as were the overlookers. Pickets were on duty daily and it was reported to be “a chilly job but

A warp-slashing outrage, which has thrown 20 cotton weavers temporarily out of work, was discovered at **Dotcliffe Mill, Kelbrook**, near Barnoldswick, to-day. When the manager of the Springbank Weaving Co., Ltd. went to open the mill, he found someone had broken a window in the roof of the weaving shed, entered the building, and cut through the warps in 70 looms. It is thought they had been cut with a razor, and traces of blood on several of the looms indicated that the miscreant had cut himself during the operation. The matter was at once reported to the Earby police. An official of the firm said to me: “I can’t imagine what the motive was, but someone appears to have a grievance against the firm.” The Springbank Weaving Co. have been conducting eight-loom experiments, and a large amount of opposition has been encountered.

they were fortified by jugs of tea at regular intervals”. The firm advertised for weavers and carried on with the 8 loom experiment. In February the Craven Herald reported that at Dotcliffe there were 16 sets of 8 looms and the 4 loom sets were run by non-union labour; 70 workers were on strike. The mill was outside the Earby Manufacturers’ agree-

ment where 2,000 workers were locked out, while Dotcliffe continued as normal.

In July 1932 things took a turn for the worse when there was outrage, when warps were slashed at Dotcliffe.

In September 1932 James Rushton, a local communist, and hundreds

of people from Nelson, Colne and Barnoldswick joined local demonstrators against the Kelbrook mill carrying on working through the strike against a 7½% wage reduction. Local police, with reinforcements from other areas, pressed the protestors back half a mile from Sough Bridge and Dotcliffe (the two mills still working). There were boos and stone throwing but after a warning from a police inspector the crowd dispersed at 6pm.

To prevent any further scenes at Sough Bridge Mill, a co-operative and profit sharing firm run by Messrs. Nutter and the Kelbrook Bridge Manufacturing Co. a firm working on the old wages and Dotcliffe Mill where only 10% of the looms were idle, police precautions were increased, with the following report in the local press: "For two hours before work ceased a force of 80 mounted and foot police were on duty. No one was allowed to stay within a quarter of a mile of the mills. The Chief Constable of the West Riding was in charge of the patrol. Every field path was watched and a procession of Barnoldswick strikers was diverted. Hundreds of visitors who had arrived in Earby expecting a scene had to be content to listen to a volley of jeers as a number of mill workers went home in a bus. Police officers were billeted in two mills at night."

On 7th October 1932 the Craven Herald reported that the manager at Dotcliffe, John William Wilkinson, had arrived for work at 6.40am and was unable to find the engineer. He started the engine and then found a man hanging from an iron girder over the turbine hole. The body was identified as that of Albert Hoggarth aged 38, engineer, of Salterforth. In September 1931 Albert Hoggarth had been fined ten shillings with three guineas costs for poisoning fish in Harden Beck by blowing down undiluted boiler water into the beck. Jeannie Smith of Dotcliffe Road reported that Hoggarth had been visiting her mother and it was believed she wanted to give him up. Hoggarth had been heard to say that if she did he would commit suicide.

At the end of 1932 an agreement was brokered to include a six loom system, which many Nelson employers were ready to introduce. In January 1933 weavers found that they could earn more money by the 6-loom system of cotton weaving which was being extended in Bar-

noldswick and Earby. At Dotcliffe the Springbank Weaving Company

WEAVERS WANTED
SPRINGBANK WEAVING CO., LTD.,
 Rayon and Cotton Manufacturers,
DOTCLIFFE MILL, KELBROOK.
 Re-opening shortly after being closed for
 five years.
**WILL ALL OLD EMPLOYEES, ALSO ANY
 OTHER PERSONS DESIRING TO COM-
 MENCE WORK AT THE ABOVE MILL.
 PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH THE
 MANAGER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?**
 Travelling Expenses Paid by the Firm.
 No Saturday Work.
 Good Standing Wage Paid until Looms
 Get Going.
 Also Office Man required. Must be ex-
 perience in Textiles, to take charge of pro-
 duction of 450 looms.
 Apply by **LETTER ONLY**, giving full par-
 ticulars of experience, to J. J. Duckworth,
 c/o J. J. Duckworth Ltd., Pendle Street
 Mills, Nelson.

The Kelbrook Weaving Co.
DOTCLIFFE MILL, KELBROOK,
 Has a Few Vacancies for
WEAVERS ASSISTANTS
 The work, which is clean and not highly skilled, is
 particularly suited to ex-weavers who wish to serve the
 industry but who feel unable to take on the responsibilities
 of weaving. A bus service to and from Barnoldswick and
 to Earby is provided and canteen meals are available.
 Applications should be made to the Manager.
 (This advertisement appears by permission of the Ministry of Labour and
 National Service under the Control of Engagements Order, 1947).

EVENING SHIFT WEAVERS wanted.
 7-10 p.m. daily, for rayon weaving.
 First-class work and good wages avail-
 able. A long period of employment is
 anticipated. Here is an excellent oppor-
 tunity for married women experienced
 in rayon weaving to add to the family
 income. Apply Dotcliffe Mill (Kelbrook)
 Ltd., Kelbrook.

had some of their weavers on 8 looms, others, including women, on 6 looms and a third batch on 4 looms

Although more looms would reduce production costs, Lancashire cotton could still not compete with the low wages and long hours in the East. In 1938 the Springbank Weaving Company at Dotcliffe had 460 looms and in 1940 440 looms. Above are a selection of "wanted" adverts from the 1940s and 1950s.

The company changed to Kelbrook Weaving Co. in 1949.

In 1957 Dotcliffe Mill (Kelbrook) Ltd. had 440 weaving looms. The manager was Charles Lord. Disaster struck in May 1959 when the mill fell victim to the notorious Craven fire-raiser – the Fire-Bug. The Saturday night fire was discovered by William Walton, who noticed a flicker of fire through a window in door shutters at one end of the building. He tried to get help from a mill-worker who had a key and Mr Seago, clerk to EUDC, heard the commotion and phoned the fire brigade. Flames shot into the air as the main portion of the mill crumbled and it took 50 firemen three hours to get the blaze under control. The blaze was estimated to have caused £200,000 worth of damage. The West Craven fire-raiser was never caught.

MEMORIES OF KELBROOK VILLAGE

90 YEARS AGO

Part 2 of the late Kathleen Bannister's (nee Astin) Memoir

Lighting Up Time

A small gas mantle lit the downstairs rooms but everywhere else we depended on candles. Early to bed was by candle-light and we three girls passed the time in the dark singing songs we'd learnt at school and Sunday School, reciting our multiplication tables and poems until two knocks on the kitchen ceiling meant "Quiet now".

I was 8 in 1936 when life changed for us – electricity came. We were very excited and as the time approached for its installation Dad invented a nice little exercise. He had found a little hollow in the woodwork at the bottom of the stairs, so every night thereafter it was – fingers in the little hole – we practised switching on. It meant No more candles. However we still had to use a candle if we needed the toilet in the dark evenings. Housed in a little building in the back yard there it was – an uncomfortable, huge, often noisy, clever tippler construction, efficient enough but it was a happy day when the w.c. was invented.

School Days

With Miss Naylor, Mrs Garside and Miss Procter I loved school. At 5 to 9 the big school hand bell was rung and the clatter of clogs (we all wore them) would add to the din as we all rushed into orderly lines at the school door. Before going into the school in winter this involved kicking off the huge pads of snow which collected on the clog irons. At Miss Naylor's request the children changed into soft pumps which could be bought for a few pence at the Post Office. Everybody seemed to manage it.

We were thoroughly taught: to read fluently, to write legibly and do the usual sums. We certainly knew our multiplication tables but also the complicated tables weights and measures, feet and inches and mon-

ey which all changed in the 70s when decimalisation made life easier. Our school day was varied and included a variety of other skills. Hand loom weaving on little wooden looms complete with shuttle (I made a nice blue scarf and wore it. We knitted kettle holders, dishcloths and doll's scarves; we practised percussion instruments (pandemonium), country dancing (lovely) drill (now called PE), singing, painting and the occasional nature walk. We always performed our Christmas Nativity Play and the occasional concert. If the class had 100% attendance we could go home at 3.45 on Friday, so woe betide anyone who spoilt it. However Kelbrook did suffer the occasional epidemics – we three caught measles, whooping cough, mumps and chicken pox (not all at once) because nearly 90 years ago there was very little inoculation. I do remember being inoculated against diphtheria.

From an early age I wanted to be a teacher and Dad said "Try hard. Miss Naylor earns £4 a week". To be continued

THE FORREST FAMILY AN EXERCISE IN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Bob Abel

A post card photograph has recently come into the Society Archives. The original is quite faded and had to be scanned and electronically enhanced. Before and after images are shown.





On the reverse of the photo is written:
Dear Brother and sister.
Caught at last by the camera fiend
Yours Archer

The card is addressed to Mr E Forrest, 5 James Street, Earby

Unfortunately the card has no stamp and there has not been franked so we do not know from where it was sent or when. It must not have been posted.

So who are the couple photographed by the “camera fiend” and who are Archer and E Forrest, presumed brothers?

A little research on Ancestry.com reveals that Archer Forrest was born in 1884, his parents being Samuel and Ann Forrest. The 1891 census shows the family living at Gannow in Burnley and Archer has three brothers, in age order Sylvester, Ernest, Arthur, Archer being the youngest.

Ernest will be the brother to whom the card was addressed in Earby. The 1911 census confirms that Ernest was living in Earby but at the

time of the census at 15 John Street. In fact two other brothers were living in Earby in 1911, Archer at 19 James Street and Arthur at 1 Cowgill Street. All three brothers were cotton weavers. At the same time Sylvester was living in Burnley and was an Overlooker in a cotton mill.

There appears to be no evidence that Archer had a sister, so one assumes that the card was addressed to Ernest and his wife who was Archer’s sister-in-law.

The earliest record for Ernest in the Earby Electoral Register is 1908, suggesting that he moved to Earby about 1907, his address being 5 James Street. In 1911 his address had changed to 15 John Street, confirmed by the 1911 census.

So, from the address on the card, this narrows the date when the card was written to between 1907/8 and 1910/11.

The next question is who are the couple pictured? At that time all the brothers were working in the mills so it is unlikely that they would be posing with what looks like a mare and two foals. Also the couple look to be too old to be either of the brothers whose ages ranged from 37 down to 26. Could they be their parents?

Early censuses record their father Samuel being a cotton weaver but by the 1901 census he had taken up farming at Sunny Bank Farm, Crawshawbooth, Rawtenstall. He is described as “Farmer on own account”, which would explain a picture with horses. Samuel Forrest died in 1909.

Therefore my theory is that the couple pictured are Samuel and Mary Forrest, Archer’s parents and was taken c1907/8, unless anyone can shed any more light on the picture?

There is much more information about the Forrest family, too much to include in this article and there appears to be no connection with the late Francis Forrest.



EDLHS Members Celebrate 25 Years of the Society



25th ANNIVERSARY – CONCLUSION- Continued from Autumn Edition

Bob Abel

In 2013, Mary Corteen, Colin Dalby and Ken Ranson joined the committee.

By 2015 the committee was seriously considering the future of the Society. There was a small core of active members and a small cohort of members attending regular meetings. We had seen a decline in membership and meetings were becoming less well attended.

Many of the older established History Societies seemed to be reaching the end of their life cycles. It was reported that Nelson folded a couple of years ago and the old established Colne History Society was struggling to attract committee members (and has since folded)

and other societies were just limping along. Newer groups were just starting the journey e.g. Gargrave.

We were, however, determined to carry on.

Bob Abel stood down as chairman but continued in his role as programme organiser and representative on the Earby Community Association. Margaret Brown agreed to chair meetings as well as act as secretary with other members of the committee sharing some of the tasks. Steve Marshall joined the committee.

The annual dinner was held at the White Lion in Earby and there was the usual round of fairs and other events including at Pendle Heritage Centre.

This year the tour of Britain Cycle Race came through Earby and we set up an exhibition on cycling in conjunction with Riley Street Methodists.

Work continued on research into Earby's water powered corn/spinning mill and a site visit was made with archaeologist, John Clayton, and a test pit was excavated in an attempt to find evidence of the old mill behind the Youth Hostel.



Members discuss the possible position of the mill site with John Clayton (facing)

Bradford University also sent a geophysical team to explore the site of what we assume was the medieval village of Earby.



Bradford University "Time Team" at work.

In an effort to promote the Society, we launched our own facebook page which has attracted a lot of interest and is another means of publicising meetings and this led to an improvement in attendances at our Tuesday evening meetings.

Panic set in when Lancashire County Council announced that Earby Community Centre would close as a cost saving measure. Where could we house our large archive collection if we had to move out? The Society took part in negotiations to keep the Centre open which were eventually successful.

The committee decided to scale down operations as there was too much for the current committee to do; consequently in 2016 there was no annual dinner.

However Stephanie Carter transcribed the All Saints baptism and marriage registers for the church and Stephanie's latest book on Crime was launched.

The Archive continued to grow. In 2017 we took custody of some Salterforth Parish Council records for sorting and cataloguing and we had a fabulous book launch in conjunction with Country Holidays of Stephanie's book "Wish You were Here". We also took some documents and old books belonging to the late Jim Walker

The perennial problem of getting volunteers to join the committee continued but Mick Jackson was persuaded to join the committee.

2018 saw the election of Bob Abel back as chairman after a short break.

Three publications were in progress that year, Stephanie Carter's History of Earby Brass Band, Steve Marshall's on WWI names on the war memorial and Bob Abel's history of the Empire Cinema.

2019 saw the publication of two more books, Bob Abel's History of Earby Fire Brigade and Stephanie's History of Earby Brass Band. The latter was launched with an exhibition of brass band memorabilia and Earby Brass Band gave a concert.

2020 was the 25th anniversary of the Society and a fairly low key celebration took place at the AGM in February with buffet and a special silver jubilee cake.

Then we were hit with the Coronavirus pandemic and like many other organisations all meetings were suspended and the Community Centre was closed for the duration.

It was decided that at all costs the quarterly newsletter would be produced and circulated. The summer edition was delayed due to the logistics of producing it but the autumn edition went out on time. It was obvious by the end of August that the virus was not abating and reluctantly we had to cancel all meetings for 2020, keeping open the option for starting again in the New Year. However with signs of a second wave of infections about to crash over us it looks as though a restart will be further delayed.

Steve Marshall's WWI book was ready to launch but with the restrictions a formal launch was out of the question so it was launched over the internet.

Stephanie's latest book on local Methodist history went to the printers and will hopefully be launched in 2021 when the Earby Methodists celebrate the bi-centenary of the first Methodist Church in Earby.

At the time of writing the Community Centre is still closed except for users of Lancashire Library's Earby branch.

One positive outcome of the corona virus is that many more people

had had time to do family and local history research and we have had many enquiries for assistance which we have willingly offered where we could despite not having access to the archive.

What of the future? At the moment the prospect of holding meetings is for the start of next year is looking doubtful. One worry we have is that people will have got out of the habit of joining in with the meetings and we sincerely hope you will not forget about the Society. We are considering having a relaunch event as and when conditions allow.

Please rest assured that the committee are steadfast in the belief that there is a bright future for the Society and with members help we will come through these difficult times and emerge stronger.

STEVE MARSHALL'S VISIT TO CAPTAIN TOM



Everybody will have heard of Captain (Honorary Colonel) Thomas Moore through his charity walk for his 100th birthday this year. He raised over £30 million pounds for the NHS Charities Together by



Steve with Captain (Hon. Colonel) Thomas Moore
At The Coniston Hotel and Spa at Coniston Cold

walking 100 laps, ten a day, round his garden. He was knighted for his sterling effort.

His honorary rank of Colonel was presented by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Miller of the Yorkshire Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Miller is the son of former Earby GP Dr Paul Miller.

Captain Tom is a Yorkshireman by birth and in October he was in Yorkshire to promote his autobiography and was staying at the Coniston Hotel and Spa where Steve Marshall met him and presented him with a framed draft copy and a copy of his book, "Our Finest Crop" about the First World War men named on Earby War Memorial. Captain Tom was very pleased with the gifts and when Steve indicated that the framed draft could be auctioned for charity Sir Tom replied, "No, this I will treasure".

Steve's book "Our Finest Crop" is available at a price of £10 plus £4 post and packaging UK. Orders at earbyhistory.co.uk or telephone 01282 812599.

CHRONICLES

Spring 2021 Edition will be the 100th Edition of the Chronicles. If you have any comments to make on these publications to include in that edition we would be pleased if you would contact either Stephanie Carter, Editor or Bob Abel, Chairman. Our addresses and emails are to be found on the back page. Many thanks.

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

With the continued restrictions due to Covid 19 and the continued closure of the Community Centre and in line with our neighbouring societies, we have decided to cancel all planned talks until September 2021. We will keep you up to date if things should change.

Please accept our apologies.

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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