

# Earby Chronicles

Edition 102

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[www.earbyhistory.co.uk](http://www.earbyhistory.co.uk)



St. Mary's Parish Church, Kelbrook was consecrated in 1839 by Thomas Longley, Bishop of Ripon and later Archbishop of Canterbury. It was originally built as a Chapel of Ease, part of the Parish of Thornton in Craven.

## **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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## LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE AT KELBROOK CHURCH

March 1838 Leeds Intelligencer

On Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup> 1838 was laid the foundation stone of St. Mary's Church, Kelbrook, in the parish of Thornton-in-Craven. The interest which a ceremony of this nature is always so calculated to produce, was on the present occasion increased in a more than ordinary degree. The beauty of the day, the situation of the intended building, the regularity with which the proceedings were conducted, the extreme order and attention that pervaded the dense body of spectators, the solemnity with which every part of the ceremony was invested, all conspired to give impressiveness to the occasion.

On arriving at the site of the intended church, the procession was received by the Sunday School children, and after an appropriate prayer had been offered up by the Rev. L S Morris, Rector of the parish, the 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm was sung. The Rector, in a suitable address, called upon Matthew Wilson Jun. Esq., of Eshton Hall, to perform the honourable office of laying the foundation stone of a building dedicated to the service of Almighty God, which he accordingly did with the usual ceremonies.

Afterwards the Rev. J A Busfield D.D. addressed the assemblage in an excellent and energetic speech, which was listened to with the greatest attention. The Rector then read a few collects from the Liturgy, which with the benediction and the national anthem, concluded the ceremony.

It cannot fail to be a source of the greatest satisfaction to the subscribers to this work of piety (among whom we have the pleasure of finding the names of Miss Currer of Eshton Hall and the Rev. W A Wasney, Vicar of Bracewell, Sir J L L Kaye, Bart, giving the site) to reflect that the inhabitants of this district, chiefly poor hand-loom weavers, hitherto living in almost heathen ignorance, spending the Sabbath Day in idleness, and in neglect of all religious duties, will, by a Minister being stationed there, most effectually be induced to reform their moral character; and the stability and prosperity of the Estab-

lished Church will, at the same time, be promoted by the instruction of the rising generation, in this edifice, wholly constructed by the pious beneficence of private individuals for the public worship of Almighty God.

## KELBROOK CHURCH CLOCK

Barnoldswick and Earby Times 11 December 1942

The clock of St. Mary's (*which unusually has four faces*) was made by Thomas Cooke of York, a self-taught mechanic, engineer and optician. He was first a shoemaker, then a schoolmaster. He made his first telescope object glass from a broken tumbler bottom. His equatorial refracting telescopes were the finest in their days and the firm he established in York which ousted the old fashioned turret clock with its bird cage movements, has maintained its reputation ever since.

Kelbrook Church clock has four dials attached to it, each 4ft.6ins across. The clock movement is fixed in the tower opening in the rear of the gallery and is housed in a glass case. The clock, although small to drive four large dials, is a magnificent piece of work, and no finer workmanship can be found in any clock tower in the country. It is fitted with a gravity escapement invented by Lord Grimthorpe for Big Ben at Westminster, which was set going in 1800.

Another interesting item in the clock's history is that when Messrs. Fattorini, of Skipton, who had looked after it for many years, retired from business, its care fell to Mr John Albert Pickles, son of an old Kelbrook shoemaker, who it was intended should follow in his father's footsteps and be a shoemaker, but who preferred to become an engineer. His younger brother, Newton, however, carries on the shoemaking business at Kelbrook, (*from his shop in the front room of a cottage in Main Street*) thus upholding a direct line of business from his great grandfather founded over a century ago.

**Please send any articles or photographs of an historical interest from Kelbrook, Hague, Harden, Salterforth as well as Earby and Thornton to the Chronicles' Editor.**

## THE VICAR OF EARBY AND HIS MAJESTY'S HOSPITAL SHIP

Earlier this year the Society was approached by a researcher from Greece. Currently writing a book on the sinking of the Britannic in 1916, he had discovered that one of the survivors was Rev. J B Atkinson. After further research he had also found that Rev. Atkinson was a former vicar of Earby. He was looking for a photograph and family information to include in his forthcoming book.

In 1922 Rev. James Birkett Atkinson came to Earby as curate in charge of All Saints Church. His family came from Dalton in Furness and his father, a butcher by trade, had disapproved of his son's decision to go into the church and refused to support him. As a mature student he gained an MA at Durham University and became a curate in Gateshead. He gained further ministerial experience working in the

Industrial West Riding before serving as a chaplain in the First World War.

In 1916 Rev. Atkinson was the chaplain on HMHS Britannic.



Rev Atkinson and excerpt from passport

DESCRIPTION SIGNALEMENT	
Profession Profession	Clerk in Holy Orders
Place and date of birth	Dalton in Furness Lancashire
Lieu et date de naissance	5 <sup>th</sup> May 1876
Domicile Domicile	England
Height Taille	5 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Colour of eyes Couleur des yeux	Blue
Colour of hair Couleur de cheveux	Dark Brown
Special peculiarities Signes particuliers	



Britannic was a sister ship of the Olympic and the Titanic, built by Harland and Wolff as part of a class of transatlantic luxury liners for the White Star Line. The Britannic was scheduled to begin its commercial service but following the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, was requisitioned as a hospital ship in 1915.

On November 12<sup>th</sup> 1916 the ship left Southampton for Lemnos on its sixth voyage. At 8.15 am on 21<sup>st</sup> November, about 2 miles from Kea island, Greece, an explosion occurred on the ship. The cause was either a mine or a torpedo, but German u-boats had been laying mines in the area. At about 9.07 am the Britannic sank. Several boats aided the rescue of 1,030 people, one of whom was Rev. Atkinson. 30 people were killed.

In January 1917 the Rev. Atkinson recalled the incident which was reported in the Yorkshire Evening Post under the heading "Chaplain's Fine Tribute to their Noble Example".

"It was a bright Sunday morning in November when, after a few day's leave, we met together once again. Little did we think as we chatted together that that was to be the last time we should reassemble on

board the magnificent ship we loved so much. As we said goodbye to the few who were leaving us for work on shore not one of us faintly realised that they were to be spared the horrors of a disaster at sea, nor that they were to be deprived of an opportunity to play a part in what is the finest display of courage ever shown at sea by a body of nurses....

The sunset found us ploughing our way westwards... Never shall I forget the lovely sunrise and the oily sea of November 21<sup>st</sup>...

My daily duty took me to the lounge to officiate at a celebration of the Holy Communion... During the half hour which intervened between the service and breakfast, joyous groups of cheerful women feasted upon the bleak but wondrously coloured islands of the Aegean Sea. The sound of the gong soon summoned the sharpened appetites to ever-welcome breakfast.

No one had been seated five minutes before an ominous crash was heard...

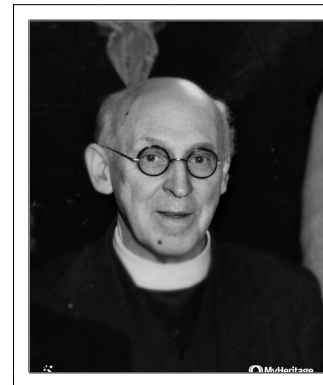
In a very few minutes we were on the boat deck. We knew that something of a serious nature had happened. Life jackets were adjusted. Not one single lady showed the slightest sign of fear or confusion. In a few minutes an order was heard 'ladies come this way'. With perfect steadiness all obeyed.

I saw no more of them at close quarters for some hours. Oft times we looked across the steadily sinking ship and felt glad that whatever might be our fate, the brave ladies had been safely removed and stood the best chance of being rescued.

None but those present can fully realise the joyful character of our meeting on board HMS ... after nightfall. The handshake told what words could not express. All our material possessions were gone.

No one seemed to care. Such a sacrifice was worth the making when you realise that as an outcome there has been raised a memorial of an imperishable character to the bravery of British womanhood."

In 1923 the parish of Earby was formed and the induction of Rev. J B Atkinson took place at All Saints on 13<sup>th</sup> December.



He was to remain as vicar of All Saints for over 30 years, resigning through ill health in January 1953. Further details on the life of Rev. Atkinson can be read in the Society's publication "All Saints Parish Church Earby – The First 100 Years 1900-2009". We look forward to receiving a copy of the story of the Britannic from our Greek correspondent.

Photo of Rev. Atkinson at a tea party during his later days at Earby

## JULY 1950 LISTED PROPERTIES

**Protected Properties.** — Several properties in Earby and district have been listed by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning for preservation and protection. They are:—Great Hague, Middle Hague (farmhouse and cottage), Kelbrook; Northolme Farm; Waddington Farm, Cemetery - road; White Lion Hotel, Green End-road; The Old Grammar School, School-lane; Yellow Hall, Kelbrook, Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 7. There are also several buildings listed of interest, but not sufficient to warrant protection under the Act.

Please send any photographs or other information on the above properties to the Editor

## FURTHER INFORMATION ON SALTERFORTH MILL

Stephanie Carter

After the end on the 1<sup>st</sup> World War the Old Shed Company was wound up. With the decline in the cotton trade in the 1920s Messrs. Anthony Brown went into liquidation and closed in 1928

Messrs. James Slater Ltd. took over the premises vacated by A Brown and would have continued working full time, but two tragedies struck in 1929. In March a serious fire broke out at the mill. Charles Plummer, the engineer and boiler tender, went to his work and on opening up the dampers there was a rush of flames, which spread through into the engine house. Calls for help were made and it was reported that Keighley fire brigade, to whom they paid an annual subscription, were held up at the crossings at Crosshills. The Barnoldswick fire brigade were the first to arrive, followed closely by Earby. By this time the damage had been done, the roof having collapsed into the engine house. The report continued "A willing band of volunteers had in the meantime mounted to the roof of the shed and by means of a chain of buckets had kept the flames from spreading to the shed." The damage to the engine and engine house was extensive and 638 looms were made idle for many months.

In October Percy Slater, of Springfield, Earby, partner and general manager, died. He was 43 years of age and a well-known figure in textile circles both at Manchester and Bradford. He was prominently associated with Barnoldswick Baptist Church and a large number of the firm's employees attended the funeral.

After repairs to the mill, Messrs. James Slater took over the whole mill and operated until 1941. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War the mill was used by the Admiralty for storage of war supplies. The mill re-opened in 1946 and started weaving cotton and man-made fibres.

For a number of years prosperity returned to Salterforth Mill. In 1947 eleven Polish ex-servicemen started work for James Slater Ltd. cotton manufacturers at Salterforth. They were given two looms each for a start and they lived in a hostel in Barnoldswick.

December 1947 saw the opening of a new up-to-date canteen, celebrated with a Christmas dinner. Guests included representatives of the Lancashire cotton industry, individual firms, National and Martins Bank, Factory Inspectors, Chairman of Barnoldswick UDC, and Mr G B Drayson, MP. Mr C R Large, chairman of the Company expressed regret at the absence of John Slater whose family has been concerned with the mill since its inception. Mr Large outlined the many difficulties encountered which had delayed the opening of the mill in December 1946 working with 80 looms, since which time production had steadily increased. The fuel crisis had caused a short stoppage but more looms which had been installed over the past year were waiting a full complement of labour to weave cotton and rayon. A Work's Committee had been formed and every attention was being paid to the comfort of the weavers, including the opening of the new canteen.

There followed many adverts for employees in 1948 and 1949, always highlighting the canteen facility.

In March 1949 400 dancers comprising employees and friends of James Slater (Salterforth) Ltd. enjoyed the firm's first annual dance held in Barnoldswick's Majestic ballroom. The firm was represented by managing director Mr C Green.

A Sports and Social Club was formed at the mill and in 1951 they organised a party for 250 children. 1951 was Festival of Britain Year. The firm contributed to local events and a party went down to London to see the festivities. (see opposite)

The 1950s brought many adverts for weavers for spun rayon and cotton on Lancashire looms and automatic looms. There was the same emphasis on the canteen and on the availability of buses for the workers.

In 1954, at the Annual Christmas Dinner, director James Slater thanked the canteen staff for the meal. Another director, Mr Green, spoke of "a steady year" and a short concert was compered by Mr T Townson. January 1955 saw the Annual Ball held in the Majestic Ballroom where dancing took place to the Music Makers Band



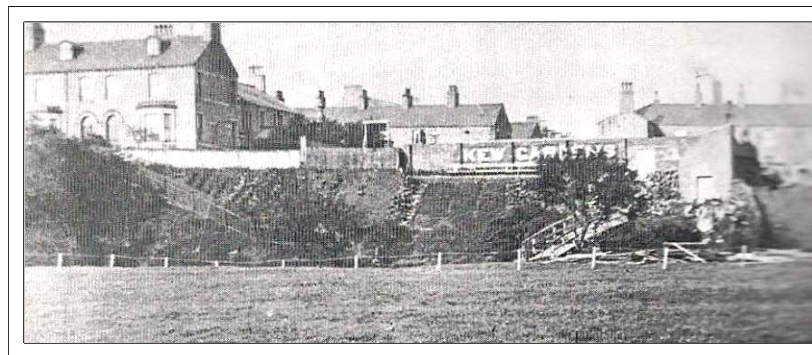
For a number of years prosperity returned to Salterforth Mill. However by the mid 1960s the cotton trade was in steep decline. The mill closed in 1970 and soon after was bought by Tom Clarke of Silent-night and used as offices and a showroom for beds for many years. This is turn was sold to Seddon Homes who received planning permission to convert the mill into apartments in 2012 and 42 dwellings are also to be built on the site.

## NELSON'S KEW GARDENS PART 2

Stephanie Carter

Thomas Hargreaves opened the public pleasure gardens, known as Kew Gardens, Nelson, in June 1888. The gardens were much admired for their "elegance and workmanship" and the admission charge was 2d which would have been thrown into a wheelbarrow. The opening event was a Sports and Gala, admission 6d, with

sports including running, bicycle and obstacle races and a football competition. This was followed in July by the Little Marsden Agricultural Show. A Band Contest in August, with prizes of £40, attracted five bands, including Earby Brass Band. It was reported that the conductor divested himself of his coat and wielded the baton in his shirt sleeves, and commenced to beat time audibly with his foot". Earby were placed fourth. Other August events included the Nelson Agricultural Show, followed in September by the Athletic Sports of the Nelson Star Cycling Club where 500 entrants competed for £50 prize money. Other events included a trotting handicap (October) and a pigeon shooting match. The gardens were promoted by extensive and canny advertising and events attracted large crowds from all parts of the country.



<b>K</b>	<b>EW</b>	<b>GARDENS, NELSON.</b>
GOOD FRIDAY and SATURDAY, April 4th and 5th,		
<b>GREATEST TWO DAYS' FETES EVER HELD IN LANCASHIRE.</b>		
To be given in Aid of Burnley Hospital Funds.		
<b>Mr. THOMAS HARGREAVES, Proprietor, has Engaged, at enormous expense, the</b>		
<b>FAMOUS LONDON MILITARY BAND,</b>		
Conducted by Mr. DAN GODFREY, Jun.		
<b>GRAND PROMENADE CONCERTS and other Wonderful Performances each Day.</b>		
Greatest Attractions Ever Seen in the North of England.		
<b>HURST, the Wonderful Cyclist. CARLO TROUPE of ACROBATS, MUSICAL CLOWNS, JUGGLERS, TRICK SKATERS.</b>		
Horizontal Bar Performers, and German Blondius.		
<b>TWO BRASS BANDS will PLAY for DANCING.</b>		
<b>NEW OPEN-AIR DANCING PLATFORM.</b>		
<b>BALLOON ASCENTS and FIREWORK DISPLAYS.</b>		
Cheap Excursion Trains from all parts.		
<b>Grounds Open Each Day at Twelve o'clock.</b>		
<b>Admission, 6d.</b>		

In 1889 Thomas Hargreaves presented a whole raft of entertainments in his Kew Gardens, beginning with a dog handicap and rabbit coursing event for a stake of £40. On Good Friday and Easter Day none of the many trips planned to the seaside or countryside attractions could compete with the Fete in Kew Gardens which featured Professor Taylor's "fall from the clouds". Special trains brought 20,000 visitors from a wide radius and the tramcars were packed. Professor Taylor's parachute jump was from a bar attached to a gas filled balloon "At the word 'let go' the score of men who were holding the balloon released their hold of the ropes, and with tremendous rapidity it rose into the air amidst the plaudits of the thousands of persons around. The balloon spun round several times in its ascent, but when it attained a great height it appeared to be advancing steadily. Suddenly, after an interval of 35 seconds from leaving the ground, Professor Taylor left the balloon. With lightening speed the parachute became inflated and the descent was made. The balloon had been carried by the wind in a direction slightly different from that indicated by the pilot. Professor Taylor alighted in a field near the Golden Ball Inn about a mile from the scene of the ascent. His descent occupied little over a minute and a half and he reached the ground without meeting with a mishap of any description".

However it was reported that on the Monday, whilst making a parachute descent of 6,000 feet at Kew Gardens, Nelson, "Professor" Taylor of London fell heavily near a fence on Hendon farm and broke his leg above the knee. He lay prostrate in great pain for some minutes before he was ultimately removed on a stretcher."

**WANTED, to be Known, that 50,000 persons** paid for admission to witness Professor Taylor's Parachute Descent at Kew Gardens, Nelson, Lancashire, on Good Friday, and exceeded all expectation. We are engaged for all Ballooning and Parachuting for this Summer at Kew Gardens, Nelson. Captain ORTON, 7, Venue-street, Bromley, E.

**WANTED, it Known, that Professor Taylor** is to be presented with a Handsome Gold Medal by the Proprietor, Mr Hargreaves, at the next Descent at Kew Gardens, on Whit Saturday, when he will drop 8,000 feet. Captain ORTON, 7, Venue-street, Bromley, E.

**LANCASHIRE,**  
**To be given in Aid of Burnley Hospital Funds.**  
**Mr. THOMAS HARGREAVES, Proprietor, has Engaged, at enormous expense, the**  
**FAMOUS LONDON MILITARY BAND,**  
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**Greatest Attractions Ever Seen in the North of England.**  
**HURST, the Wonderful Bicyclist. CARLO TROUPE of**  
**ACROBATS, MUSICAL CLOWNS, JUGGLERS, TRICK SKATERS.**  
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**Cheap Excursion Trains from all parts.**  
**Grounds Open Each Day at Twelve o'clock.**  
**Admission, 6d.**

In June at the Whit Fete, thousands of people from all over the country again witnessed a parachute descent and enjoyed the performances of lady gymnasts, illusionists and jugglers.

The April 1900 Fete attracted 15,000 people and the Grand Easter Fete, held in aid of Burney Hospital, included sports, a baby show, singing contest, open air dancing and fireworks. In May there was a great floral competition held in a marquee, a grand vocal competition, an exhibition of dogs, poultry, pigeons, rabbits and cats and a "monster gala of sports". The variety of events was breath-taking. Also in May a Grand Musical Fete was held in aid of Victoria Hospital Burnley. It boasted "an unparalleled programme by the London Military Band". There followed an engagement of the famous Besses O' The Barn Band who played a selection of sacred instrumental music.

Thomas Hargreaves was also the enterprising proprietor of the Queens Hall, Nelson and many events were held there, particularly during the winter months. Examples included: Grand Carnival and Plantation Ball with a full string band engaged (Christmas Eve 1890), an Exhibition of Plants and Flowers (1892), Nelson Cricket Club Party attended by 800 (September 1892). He promoted the building as "the finest hall in the County" holding 1,200 people. In July 1893 Hargreaves offered the use of the hall as a vaccination station.

## CHARLES CAREY CROFT (1880-1949)

by Bob Abel

During a conversation with Peter Dawson, Peter happened to mention that he remembered that at one time the engine man at Spring Mill was Charlie Croft. This would have been in the late 1930s/1940s.

This set me on a trail to find out more about Charlie (Charles Carey) Croft.

Charlie was born in Benenden, Kent, a village to the west of Ashford. His father was another Charles Croft who had been an agricultural labourer but by 1891 was described as a farmer and poultry man. Also in 1891 Charlie was described as an agricultural labourer. At some time he left the land to take up a job as a stationary engine driver.

His father had remarried in 1880 to Susannah Millen and Charlie was the first child of this second marriage.



Charlie joined the Royal Navy in 1900, his naval record describing him as a 19 year old stationary engine driver and he signed up for twelve years service. He served on a variety of ships and on shore until 1907 when he bought himself out. (*Left In Hong Kong in naval uniform*)

One can only speculate why he came to live in the Earby area. He obviously took up his former profession as a boiler stoker (see 1911 census). Was it through someone local he met while in the Navy or was it just that there were jobs to be had in the north east Lancashire mills. His wife came from the Halifax area.



Charles with Harriet and Christiana c 1918

He married Harriet Ann Fenning at Bracewell in 1908 when he was described as a fireman by profession (probably meaning a boiler stoker) and their first child Christiana Mary was born the following year.

In 1911 they were living at 5 Riley Street in Earby and Charles was described as a boiler stoker in a cotton mill.

In 1914 he was back in the navy for the duration of WWI, finally being discharged in 1921.

Two further children were born after the First World War, Jack Millen in 1919 and Betty in 1921.

Number eight Stoney Bank Road belonged to Spring Mill and went with the job as engineman at the mill. The cottage is just across Bailey Street from the mill so the engine man was always handy. He didn't have far to get to the mill and could easily be called upon if there was a problem with the engine out of his normal working hours.

From electoral registers, The Crofts lived at number eight from about 1935 until Charlie's death in 1949 so he must have worked for Spring



Mill during those years. Hedley Bradshaw took over from Charlie as engineman.

In an interview I did with Hedley many years ago he explained how he came to get the job.

“I heard on the grapevine that Charlie Croft, the Spring Mill engine driver was ill, so I went to see him. He told me he couldn’t do with climbing up all those steps any more. I saw Willie Gaunt who was the managing director of C W Baileys who owned the mill. [William Edmundson Gaunt b 1883 had joined C W Bailey Ltd at Spring Mill in the office and worked there for 60 years until the firm closed under the Government scheme for re-organisation of the industry]. There were three others for the job, including the engine driver from Victoria Mill, but I got the job.”

Charlie’s illness must have resulted in his death in 1949 and the 1950 electoral register shows Hedley and Sophia Bradshaw living at eight Stoney Bank. Charlie’s widow and daughter had had to move out of the tied house.

Going back to 1940-41 a double tragedy struck the Croft family.



Their only son, Jack Millen Croft, (left) had joined the RAF and was serving with bomber command as a radio operator/gunner. During the many air raids on Hamburg his plane must have been shot down. He was listed as missing on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1940 and it wasn’t until several months later, when the bodies of four members of his fellow crewmen were found, was he presumed to have been killed as well.

Jack is remembered on Earby war memorial and the Battle of Britain Memorial Roll of Honour in West Minster Abbey which was unveiled by King George VI in 1947.

Also, in 1941 the Croft’s youngest daughter, Betty, collapsed and died while walking along Riley Street, she was only 19 years old. She had died of natural causes and no inquest was held.

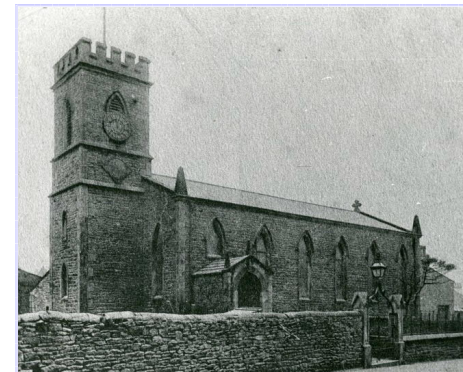
Their elder daughter Christiana Mary, married later in life in 1964 (aged 55) to Frederick Pell and died in 1997.

## THE EXTRAORDINARY CHURCH DISPUTE AT BARNOLDSWICK 1887-1890

Stephanie Carter

The living of St James’s Barnoldswick was bought by the Rev. John Woods in 1880 and was held by Thomas Hayes of Bracewell up to his death in 1887. The wardens then communicated with the Rev. Woods suggesting that it was advisable to appoint an assistant to help the curate with the two churches of St. James and Mary-le-Ghyll.

Top St James’ Bottom St Mary le Ghyll



John Woods was born on 1833 at Simonswood, near Ormskirk, Lancashire. At the time of the 1861 census, aged 28, he was farming at Fleckwood Farm, Kirkby, employing seven labourers. In 1871 he was the unmarried rector of Wickhampton, near Great Yarmouth. Ten years later in 1881, aged 48, he was the vicar at New Buckenham, Lincolnshire, living at the vicarage with wife Elizabeth aged 25 and daughter Ellen aged 3. On hearing from the Barnoldswick wardens, Rev. Woods left his church at New Buckenham and went to Barnoldswick to take charge of both churches without assistance.

The services at these churches were of a highly ritualistic nature whilst the new vicar belonged to the Evangelical school. He remodelled the services to conform with an extreme version of Low Church practices and from the start it was obvious that the vicar and the church did not work well together. He tried to change everything before being long in the post. However it led to newspaper headlines such as "The Barnoldswick Church Dispute", "Fracas in Church", "Strained Relations between a Vicar and his Flock", "The Barnoldswick Church Scandal".

One of the first disputes with parishioners and church officials arose from the proposed letting, as on previous occasions, of St. James' Sunday School for a Conservative Ball. The vicar's refusal to the request gave "widespread offence throughout the church", including the resignation of the choirmaster. A further dispute followed when Mrs Woods removed some white silk crosses from a number of hassocks. Churchwarden Mr Briggs objected, supported by Thomas Myers, sidesman and Sunday School teacher. The vicar said their remarks were of "an abusive nature" and would not allow the latter to continue as a teacher "unless he made an apology for the impudent language he had used". The choir were forbidden from processing in church or from singing a "recessional hymn". When the organist told Rev. Woods that the choir declined to continue, he reproached him for using "insulting language", took the organ keys and appointed another man to play it. Then in consequence of the vicar's attitude, there was a general break-up in the choir and a number of Sunday School

teachers were dismissed for not doing "as they were bid".

It was reported in February 1888 that due to the vicar's actions, the congregation were holding the church services and Sunday School in the Seven Stars Assembly Room attended by almost all the church people and all the scholars who usually attended the Parish Church School. The vicar was to refer to these people as "seceders" (*One who secedes or withdraws from communion or association with an organisation*).

The report continued "A petition has been sent to the Bishop of Ripon (Dr Boyd Carpenter) asking for an inquiry into the conduct of the vicar, who was threatening to take legal proceedings against anyone who entered the church or school, except when services were being held, without his permission".

In April 1888 "Disgraceful Scenes of Fighting in Church" were detailed in several newspapers including The Burnley Express, Manchester Times, Huddersfield Examiner and Hampshire Advertiser; reporting that "scenes of a most scandalous character are becoming an almost weekly occurrence". After evening service at St James' church there was an incident concerning the collection, which the vicar had earmarked for a certain cause and had put the money into his pocket before it was counted in the vestry. Mr Briggs, the churchwarden, objected and as he approached the vestry "he pushed Rev. Woods a little to one side and was seized from behind and dragged violently to the floor". As he fell, he caught hold of the vicar's overcoat and the cape is said to have been torn off. The vicar is reported to have struck out at Mr Briggs and hit him underneath the ear. During the time the assault was taking place upwards of a hundred people were present in the church. As soon as he recovered Mr Briggs was "hustled out of the church. Having lost his hat in the struggle Mr Briggs went back into the church porch, whereon a man from Earby threatened to put him out if he did not go and return home."

In May the Bradford Telegraph reported "The Rev. John Woods, vicar of Barnoldswick, offers to discuss the matters of the dispute with his parishioners on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in any week,

but he will charge 7s 6d for tickets for admission to the debate...”

A further incident at a funeral at Ghyll Church was outlined in the last Chronicles. The “fame” of the eccentric reverend was spreading far and wide. In August, members of the church arranged to hold services in the Liberal Club and arranged for the services of a clergyman from Burnley. The vicar forbade him from coming and cancelled all services. However the friends were determined to hold the services in Thornton Parish in a marquee in Swilber Field just yards from Ghyll. Things continued to deteriorate. The head of the Day School was dismissed for no legitimate reason; a new day school was opened in the Primitive Methodist schoolroom and Mr Pollard was re-employed. The scandalous quarrels with parishioners was nullifying the value of the Church.

In January 1889 a claim against the vicar was made at Skipton Police Court. Rev Woods was sued by John Duckworth, farmer, for 10s for eatage of a field. A counter claim was made against Mr Duckworth for £1 18s 6d for 2ft. 6ins. of land in the parish churchyard without paying for it. The claims were dismissed and the Judge “hoped that no more cases in which the vicar was concerned would come before him”. In February however, he was again in court for allowing five horses to stray on to the highway due to bad repairs in his fences. The vicar insisted that someone had deliberately broken the fences and driven the animals out.

By June 1889 the dispute had been ongoing for 18 months and relations between the vicar and his flock were entirely ruptured. An attempt was made to bring the parties together and a curate appointed as arbitrator. Rev. Woods refused to sign the agreement and there was “no settlement with the seceders”.

In April 1890 it was rumoured that the dispute would soon come to an end as Rev J Woods had sold the living to Mr Patton of Sunderland. In the ensuing months the churchwardens received an official letter from the Rural Dean informing them of the vicar’s resignation. All hoped that all traces of what was described as “the recent deplorable schism” would be removed and the work of the church may proceed

without further interruption.

In September 1889 the vicar’s friends presented him with a “splendid timepiece” and Mrs Woods received “a beautiful set of china”. The friends were entertained to tea at the vicarage and were told that he was going to Nelson and “he should be glad to see any of them there”. It was stated in the Burnley Express that “About a hundred persons were present and the party should have been held at one of the vicar’s farms, but the idea was abandoned owing to the inclemency of the weather”. The 1891 census shows John Woods, Clerk in Holy Orders living Carr Road Nelson. In 1911 John (78) and Elizabeth (56) Woods were living in retirement at Torquay Drive, Leigh-on-Sea.

## **EARBY POT HOLE CLUB TO THE RESCUE**

Earby Pot Hole Club was founded in 1945. People involved were Peter Dawson, Brian and John Sharples (brothers), Arthur Hartley, Kenneth Metcalf, Jim Walker, Morris Horsfield and later Ken Holt.

Peter Dawson relates:

*In 1945 just as War with Japan was coming to a close, Jim Walker and Peter Dawson went to Skipton Museum where there was information on Elbolton Cave, Thorpe; prehistoric bones had been found there. This was to be their inspiration and shortly afterwards a few people went to Elbolton taking a rope with them.*

*The Earby Pot Hole Club was formed.*

Quite by chance Bob Abel came across an article in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times (15<sup>th</sup> June 1951) headlined, “West Craven Men in Pot Hole Rescue”.

An incident had occurred in Penyghent Pot near Horton in Ribblesdale when a potholer had slipped from his rope ladder while climbing the seventh pitch. He had broken some ribs and took a nasty blow to the head. Penyghent Pot was said to be one of the most dangerous potholes in the country.

Peter Dawson, today, seventy years on, remembers the incident. A small group from the Earby Pot Hole Club had joined other potholers

and had spent a strenuous weekend exploring the caverns of Alum Pot. They were waiting, tired and soaking wet, for a bus to bring them home when a police car stopped realising that they were potholers and asked them to go to Penyghent to help with the rescue effort. They had no choice in the matter. With the party were Ken Holt, Kathleen Cartwright and Peter, all members of the Earby Club.

They set off to walk from Selside to Penyghent and when they arrived were told that they had to get some rest before they entered the cave system. The men got some sleep in tents while Kathleen and another girl stayed up all night making teas and hot meals for the rescue party. At 4-15 in the morning the men were roused and they went into the pothole.

The team of rescuers managed to extricate the injured man and at one stage a number of the rescuers including Ken had to form what was described as a human carpet over which the injured man could crawl. The Earbyer's returned home on the Monday evening none too worse for their unexpected exertions.

## DIXON'S ICE CREAM

Ken Ranson

Thomas and Isabel Dixon were dairy farmers at Towngate farm in Foulridge. They had a milk round in the local area.

A neighbour gave them a recipe for ice cream so they started making any left- over milk into ice cream and sold it from the farm to start with.

They then expanded the ice cream business and went mobile with a horse and cart to cover a larger area.



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As time went on they became motorised and were able to cover the area as far as Earby.



### RECIPE

Milk Full Fat 16 gallons

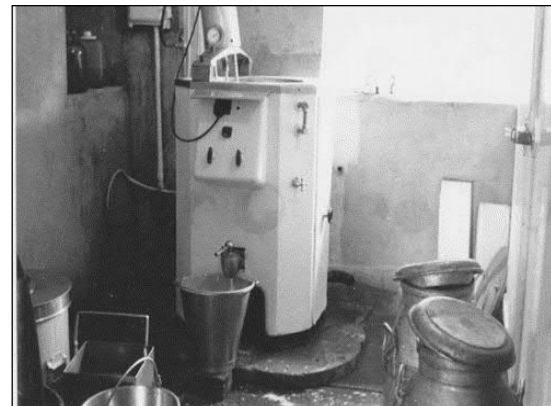
Cornflour Brown & Poulsons 3 scoops, a scoop 2lbs

Sugar 1.5 buckets

Later on butter and gelatine were added.



### METHOD - 100 litres



Pasteurised to 220°F in a 40 Boiler Double Skinned  
Electric heater underneath  
Heating/Cooling Coils  
around Boiler

Cooled down to 70°F and  
then Frozen to 22°F

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**George Dixon**

**Note from Editor:** I deeply regret the passing of Ken Ranson this July. He was a good and caring friend to me personally and the author of many fantastic articles for the Chronicles. He will be greatly missed by us all at EDLHS.

### **JAMES ROBERT GRANVILLE EXLEY (1878-1967)**

A new book, "JRG Exley, a Yorkshire Artist" has been researched and written by society member Celia Austin and is now available to buy.

The Exley family lived in Kelbrook for many years and Granville's father James moved to Bradford where he eventually became a photographer and miniature portrait artist. Granville was born in Bradford where he won a scholarship to Bradford Grammar School and excelled in art and won many prizes and awards for his work.

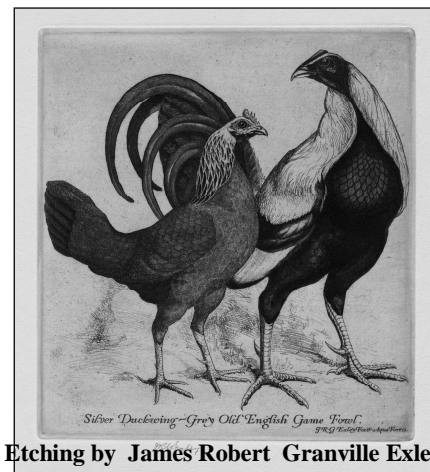
About 1897 Granville's father retired and brought the family back to Kelbrook to live and Granville took up a teaching post at Skipton School of Science and Art.

The book takes us through Granville's life and work including as Head Master of Hull School of Art. His favoured medium was etching at which he became internationally renowned and in the late 1920s he was elected to the Council of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers.

After World War Two he retired to Threshfield.

The book is liberally illustrated with many examples of his life's work and has been extremely well researched and presented.

The book costs £13 including postage and packaging and can be ordered by contacting [celia.austin07@gmail.com](mailto:celia.austin07@gmail.com) or the Society on 01282 812599



**Etching by James Robert Granville Exley**

**Editor: The following article is reproduced in memory of a wonderful lady, Doreen Turner, a friend to many and a valued member of EDLHS who will be very much missed.**

**DOREEN TURNER (née Lunney)**

**RECALLS WORKING AT SALTERFORTH AND OTHER MILLS**

(In conversation with Stephanie Carter for her book "The Clatter of Clogs")

Doreen was born in 1936 and left school at 15 in 1951. On the following Monday she started work at Slater's Mill in Salterforth. Jack Sagar taught her to weave. She had two looms at first, then four, then six. She worked there until she was 21, when her son was born. "We got one week's holiday, and we used to go to Butlins. We worked New Years Day. There were work's trips and Christmas parties and a social club into which you paid money".

In 1960 Doreen went on the evening shift 5-9 at Johnsons, weaving gauze for bandages for four years. She had six Lancashire looms and recalls "you were on the go all the time. The floors were flagged. The noise made you deaf. (*She now has 2 hearing aids*). People communicated by mee-mawing but I was never any good at it. We wore an apron called a fent, which was a cotton fent, fastened with a pin at the back.

On the side of the loom was a place for the reed hook. When an end came down you pulled it through the reed with the reed hook. At Slaters we also had a metal comb, so that if there were a few ends down we could comb them together. We wove spun silk, just plain weaving, nothing fancy. Also at Salterforth there was a smash-hand; if a lot of ends were down and it was too much to take up they came and had time to do it – it was a job in itself. The manager was Donald Snowden and under manager Alan Snowden.

At Slaters there was a clothlooker who checked the cloth when it came off the looms. If there was a fault or ends down and you hadn't realised, 'you were brought up and told off'. At Slaters there was a good canteen for breakfast and lunch.

If the loom went wrong you sent for a tackler or overlooker. Husband Jack Whipp was a tackler at Melfar in Colne – he worked with Jacquard looms and had to go to night-school for it. Father James Edward Lunney was a loomer and twister at Mason's in Colne and then at Salterforth. His fingers were always really sore – they used to prepare the warps.

There were also beamers, winders who wound yarn on to the cone to go in the shuttle, balers in the warehouse. The sweepers had the muckiest jobs - some of them had a board to lay on to get under the loom; they came once a week to sweep the dust and fluff – you had to stop the loom, and at other times you did it yourself. When the weft had finished you stopped the loom and put in another shuttle. Sometimes shuttles flew out and hurt people.

At Johnsons Harry Crabtree was the manager and Percy Lowe was the manager when mother (Lily Lunney) worked there. She wove the first piece of gauze material for Johnsons. Previously she had worked at Grove Mill and the boss came to her and said "I want you to make a good job of this because if you do we'll get an order". There were four sisters known as the Flower Girls Lily, Ivy, Violet and Daisy – they all worked at Johnsons up to retirement and were very good weavers. After working for 25 years at Johnsons you were given a gold watch

and invited to London – later Liverpool for the presentation. Mother Lily got her watch in 1965.

In the mid 1960s I worked on the evening shift at Birleys – then Booth and Speak, They were silk looms and people said the cloth was for shrouds. The brass on the big engine used to gleam. Billy Armitage drove the engine. Headley Bradshaw was in charge of the engine at Spring Mill. There was a big dam up there and you could go swimming in it."

## **EARBY TRIPE BOILERS FINED**

A number of businesses have been run from Number 1 Colne Road, Earby down the years, but in 1941 it was occupied by John and Horace Lee, tripe dealers. The following is a snippet from the Barnoldswick and Earby Times, December 1941:

### **Ignored Council's Warnings**

John Lee and Horace Lee, of Earby had been warned time and again that they were establishing an offensive business trade; in that they were carrying on their business of tripe boiling in premises unsuitable for the work. Despite these warnings they proceeded with the practice and as a result each was fined 40/- at Skipton on Saturday.

Pronouncing the penalty, Mr R W Wickham (presiding magistrate) observed that the Bench wished it to be made clear that if the defendants continued to commit this offence they would be brought before the Court and prosecuted until they did stop.

John Lee, who appeared said that suitable premises had now been obtained in Barnoldswick.

Mr G B Harrison, prosecuting on behalf of the Earby Urban District Council through the Sanitary Inspector (Mr A Smithson) outlined the facts of the case as follows: That for some time the defendants had been in business as tripe boilers and for their premises had occupied No. 1 Colne Road, Earby.

They had received many notices from the Council drawing attention to the unsuitability of the premises for such work and on February 6<sup>th</sup> this year had written the Council stating that they would cease boiling.

Earby Council, proceeded Mr Harrison, had been very lenient in the matter and the Bench would appreciate that cleanliness must be enforced. The boiling was carried out in the scullery which was 67 square feet in measurement. Of this nine square feet was glass. The floor was not drained. The building itself was in reasonable condition but the ceiling and walls were not good. There was only one small window to provide ventilation. The boiling was carried on in two gas boilers and all the hooves and bellies were stored on the floor or in the yard covered in sacking.

Mr A Smithson, in evidence, said the premises were “in a generally poor state and not fit for the preparation of food”.

Defendant John Lee pleaded “not guilty” stating that the previous Sanitary Inspector at Earby, Mr H Eatough, had told them to “carry on”.

## **OBITUARIES AND APPRECIATIONS**

Since our last publication the Society has lost three of its valued members all of whom served on the committee at some time and we wish to send our condolences to their families.

### **COLIN DALBY**

Colin lived in Kelbrook and when he retired he became a member of the committee of the Society. He contributed in many ways but in particular researched the Inghamite cause in Salterforth and spent many hours compiling photographs and information on our local young men who gave their lives in the 1st World War. This was displayed at the Society’s successful First World War exhibition in the Community Centre. Pre-deceased by his wife Anne, Colin spent time latterly in America. His friendship and contributions to the Society were appreciated and he will be missed.

### **KEN RANSON**

Ken’s sudden death came as a shock to us all and we send our condolences to his wife Sandra and family. He will be remembered for so many things—as a talented footballer, singer, gardener, local historian and friend to many. Previously a member of Rolls Royce familyHistory Society, Ken joined EDLHS and the committee. He was the driving

force in the Society’s research and exhibition on the Earby Ranch, his former home. He had a vast amount of knowledge and photographs on local history topics, which he shared with us on several facebook pages. He passed his knowledge and a collection of artifacts on Salterforth on to the Society. His illustrated articles for the Earby Chronicles were a boon to the Editor and enjoyed by members. There are so many things we will miss about Ken—he was a super, friendly and very knowledgeable guy who we will truly miss.

### **DOREEN TURNER née LUNNEY**

We were sad to hear of Doreen’s passing. She was such a friendly lady and a valued member of the Society serving on the committee in the Society’s formative days. She rarely missed attending a lecture, visit or special event, and willingly helped with refreshments. Doreen was a font of local knowledge and provided valuable information on the mills and other subjects used in the books published by the Society. We will miss her friendship, smile and contributions to EDLHS.

## **MEETINGS RESTARTING IN SEPTEMBER**

It has been a long time since we met on the third Tuesday of the month. Now that covid restrictions have been relaxed the committee has decided to restart the monthly meetings.

However we have been informed that the New Road Community Centre will be closed until about December as a new boiler system is to be installed. St Peter’s Methodist church have offered us the use of the church rooms so the first three meetings at least will be held there.

We thank you for your continued support throughout the pandemic and hope to see you at the meetings. (Programme inside back cover).

## **METHODIST’S BI CENTENARY**

On Saturday 9th October Riley Street Methodist Church will be holding an open day to celebrate 200 years of the Methodist Church in Earby. The Society will be represented with an exhibition and a book stall where Stephanie Carter’s new book on the history of Methodism in Earby and District will be on sale.

See press and publicity nearer the time

## THE SOCIETY

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

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

£10.00

UK £12.00

Overseas £15.00

If you receive Chronicles by e-mail £10 fee applicable worldwide

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**NRCC Representative:** Bob Abel

## PROGRAMME FOR NEXT QUARTER

**21st Sept 2021** Chris Helme Other Folk's Rubbish

**19th Oct 2021** Vera Brearey Romans, Quakers and Textiles:  
story of Old Road, Thornton in Craven.

**16th Nov 2021** Margaret Brown Earby's Corn Mill  
Wendy Faulkner

**21st Dec 2021** Linda Sawley Christmas talk

**Please note that these meetings will be held at St Peters  
Methodist Church on Riley Street**

## 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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