

# Earby Chronicles



Edition 74  
www.earbyhistory.co.uk

AUTUMN 2014

**SOCIETY AIMS:**  
to raise awareness,  
foster an interest  
and facilitate  
research into the  
heritage of Earby &  
district including  
Thornton in  
Craven, Sough,  
Kelbrook, Harden,  
Hague and  
Salterforth.

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## WANTED –SERVANTS!

by the Chronicles' Editor

The popularity of TV series such as Downton Abbey and UpstairsDownstairs has refuelled my interest in servants and I am collecting information on this subject for my next project for EDLHS.



About 1½ million domestic servants were at work in Britain in 1891, ranging from butlers, footmen, cooks, housemaids, gardeners and outdoor staff employed by the larger houses such as Towneley, Broughton, and Gledstone Halls, to the single maid in middle-class houses in places such as Earby, Thornton, Kelbrook and Salterforth.

During the first three decades of the 20th century the decline in servants accelerated, but many people I speak to still say “ My granny was in service...” “My aunt was a maid at...”. Now servants are so much a thing of the past, but domestic service is such a vital part of our social history, and any reminiscences will add to a fascinating study.

If you can help in any way please will you contact me on 01756 794099 or at [steph.carter123@gmail.com](mailto:steph.carter123@gmail.com)

### Recent talks & features

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Page 12 Catholic Development at Earby Part 1 by Stephanie Carter

£2.50

Members of  
Society free

**J B Priestley declared in 1927 that domestic service was “as obsolete as the horse”.** The Editor can well remember horses still playing a vital role on the farm into the early 1950s. There follows two accounts from the Craven Herald regarding horses in 1950. The first is reproduced with the co-operation of the Town family and by coincidence concerns a horse which was being “broken in” for the Editor’s father William Shuttleworth. The second account describes the last throes of the once prosperous Skipton horse fair and backs up the statement made by J B Priestley.

## **FATALLY INJURED BREAKING – IN A HORSE**

Salterforth Man’s Tragic Death (May 1950)

After being dragged by a horse which he was attempting to break in to a four-wheeled dray last weekend, Mr Edgar Town, aged 41, motor driver, of Castle House Salterforth, died in Victoria Hospital on Tuesday.

At an inquest at Burnley on Wednesday, it was stated that Mr Town, who was accustomed to breaking-in horses as a spare time occupation, lost his balance when the horse reared, and he fell between the shafts, to be dragged five yards before the frightened horse could be brought to a standstill.

A verdict of “Accidental Death” was returned by the Burnley Borough Coroner (Mr H Ogden) who commented that it was a very sad case of a young man losing his life in that manner, accustomed as he was to the job of breaking in horses.

With Mr Town at the time of the accident was Mr Douglas Leonard, coal bagger, of Chapel Street, Salterforth, who told the Coroner he had been in the habit of assisting Mr Town in his spare time in the breaking in of young horses. On Sunday, together with Mr Town, he had harnessed a four-year-old horse which they were going to break in to a four-wheeled dray. They had no difficulty in harnessing the horse. It was the first time the animal had drawn a dray and it was slightly lively. Mr Leonard said they were proceeding along the main Colne to Barnoldswick road near Whitemoor Waterworks when the accident occurred.

Witness said that Mr Town had been sitting on the front nearside corner of the dray while he had been sitting half way along the same side, both were holding a set of reins. When about 50 yards on the Barnoldswick side of Heather View House, Mr Town had slackened his reins and told him (witness) to keep a tight rein on the horse. Mr Town then sat on the platform at the rear of the shafts; he placed one foot on the shafts and leaned slightly forward over the horse. When he leaned forward the horse reared slightly and Mr Town appeared to lose his balance and fell from the dray to the ground. The horse was moving at this time at a moderate speed but when Mr Town fell, it tried to gallop away. Mr Leonard stated that after it had travelled a distance of about five yards he managed to pull it up by driving into a ditch and he then ran and held the horse’s head. Mr Town was lying under the centre of the dray and one of his legs appeared to be tangled in the reins he had been holding.

Aided by a passing motorist, the injured man was taken home, and later on the advice of Dr Glen of Barnoldswick, was conveyed to hospital. The brother of the dead man, Mr Sam Town, a coal carter of Lower East Avenue, said that his brother, who was employed by Barnoldswick Co-operative Society, had been breaking in a horse for Mr William Shuttleworth of North Holme Farm Earby. The cause of death was stated to be respiratory caused by a fracture dislocation of the fifth cervical vertebra.

**NOTE:** Ken Ranson has posted details of the Town family of Salterforth on the EDLHS website at [www.earbyhistory.co.uk](http://www.earbyhistory.co.uk) under the heading Family History. A further tragic incident relating to the Town family will be detailed in the next edition of the Chronicles.

## **ONE HORSE ONLY – SKIPTON FAIR JUST KEPT ALIVE** (August 1950)

Mr Fred Picker, a Bradford horse dealer, on Wednesday came to Skipton for the traditional horse fair – as he has done every August 23rd for the past 27 years. But amidst the crowds and continuous stream of traffic which passed through the town, he could find only one horse and three other interested persons. They were Mr Patterson who had travelled from Liverpool, Mr G Jackson of Cononley who had been attending the Fair for 50 years, and Mr J Miller of Skipton who has also been connected with the Fair for 50 years and whose father was a prominent horse-dealer in the Fair's more prosperous days.

Mr Miller told a Craven Herald reporter that he could remember the days when the stone setts in High Street were thick with horses and ponies. "Even if they came now" he said "it would be a bit of a job finding anywhere for them with all these cars about."

It was almost noon before the first, and only, horse appeared, on which was mounted a young girl. But to the four men who had waited a little dejectedly all of that morning it was more than merely a horse "on offer". It meant that the horse fair was not completely dead, and that there would also be one next year.

Mr Jackson explained that the Fair could continue for another year as long as there was an entry. "These last few years when things have been falling off, I've known some dealers bring horses into the town just to keep the thing going" he said. Although they are pleased that there is at least a flicker of interest remaining in the horse fair, they appreciate that now it is a fair in name only. "People have no use for horses now" Mr Picker said "and most of them wouldn't know how to handle one anyway. I'm sorry about this; it used to be more than a horse fair; it was an annual meeting where you could see your pals and have a day out. Sometimes, in the old days, the trains from Bradford used to bring a crowd of us to Skipton".

Interest in the horse fair, which used to make August 23rd one of the days of the year for Skipton, has been on a gradual decline since the 1930s, although the petrol restrictions during the war brought a slight improvement in trade. But even though the demand is low, the price of horses remains as high – if not higher, than it was in the 1920s.

## **LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL**

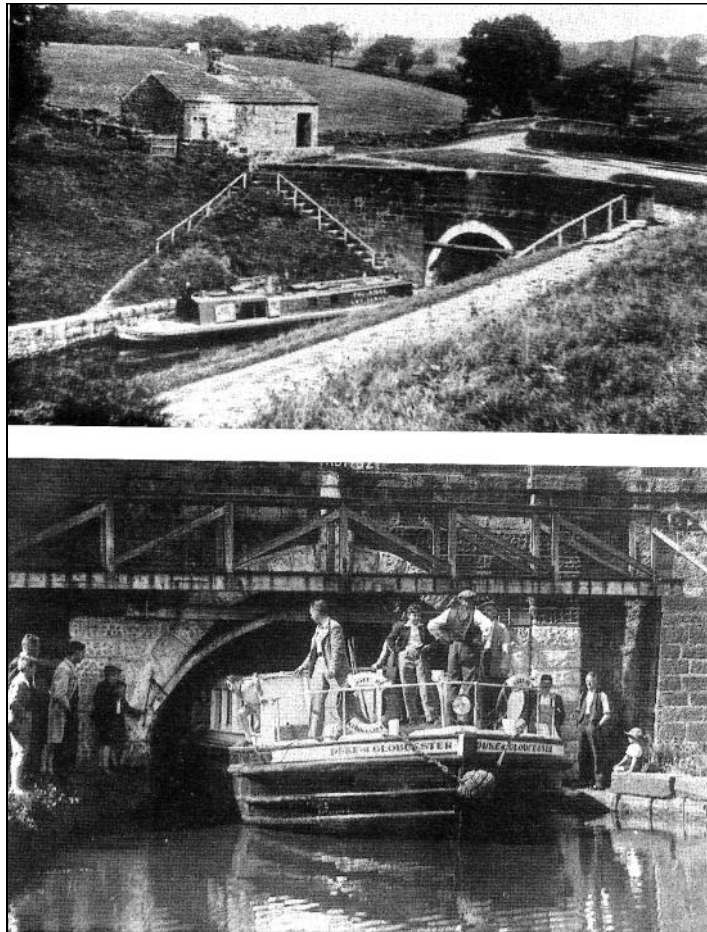
There have been several donations to the EDLHS archives recently. Among them Squire Firth has donated two books on the canal: "The Leeds & Liverpool Canal" by Mike Clarke and "Discovering the Leeds to Liverpool Canal" by Ron Freethy and Catherine Woods. The Society enjoyed a lecture on the canal in 2013 and the following article details an amusing recollection of a Salterforth man on Foulridge tunnel.

## BOATMAN'S MEMORIES (July 1939)

“Strolling on the canal bank near Salterforth a few days ago”, writes a correspondent of the Craven Herald, “I had a most interesting chat with an old boatman who must have been nearly 80 years of age. He began work on the canal at the age of eight and in more prosperous days shared in the ownership of three boats, carrying goods, and sometimes passengers, between Liverpool and Leeds.

The old fellow remembered the days when there were no tugs to draw boats through the notorious Mile Tunnel at Foulridge. The motive power was supplied by the crew. The men had to push the boat through the tunnel by working their feet along the walls, a process my informant described as ‘legging it’. It meant an hour’s gruelling toil even for the most experienced hands.

Men frequently lost money from their trousers pockets while working at the horizontal, but the worst feature was that boats very often met in the middle of the tunnel. As there was not enough room for them to pass, one had to go back. Usually the argument was won by the man who chanced to have the wind in his favour. He smoked the other out.”



Foulridge Tunnel

## SAMUEL VARLEY HEAP

Part 3. Royal Naval Sick Berth Reserve & Leaving Earby  
Stephanie Carter (Photographs courtesy of Nancy Lang)

The Royal Naval Sick Berth Reserve was formed in 1900 at the request of the Admiralty. Members of the Brigade were eligible for active military and naval service and were sent to naval hospitals and hospital ships at home and overseas during the 1st World War. After its formation, Barnoldswick and Earby were among the first in the country to volunteer to become members of the Reserve. Mr Milton Birtwhistle of Barnoldswick (lost on the Rohilla) was No. 1 on the roll and Samuel Varley Heap was No. 3. Training was given in the Royal Naval hospitals and on board ship.



In September 1912 Mr Heap spoke to the Craven Herald about a recent training visit of members of the Earby RNSBR to Weymouth: "Eight members of the Earby Brigade proceeded to Weymouth where they embarked on the "Irresistible", "Carnarvon" and the "Devonshire"; the men were attached to the sick-bay...The ship on which Mr Heap and some of his colleagues were stationed put out to sea daily for purposes of manoeuvring, the ambulance men taking part in the routine work of the hospital. Out of a crew of 500-800 men it was only reasonable to expect that a portion would always be ailing. The men received instruction each day from the staff or fleet surgeon and from each berth steward, comprising special methods of first aid treatment applicable to accidents happening at sea, wound dressing and preparing the patient for the doctor's visit, and general nursing on board ship. In addition the men got an insight into the management of a man of war.

On Wednesday they witnessed the Admiral firing – gun firing on the ships, which were boarded in turn by Admiral Hamilton...During the firing the ambulance men were stationed at General Quarters – at points below the waterline to which the sick and injured would be removed in time of actual engagement. Ordinarily the sick berth was on deck...On Thursday the men had the experience of taking a man from the stockhold of the ship, up slippery iron ladders and through a very constricted air space on to the deck above... On the Friday morning they were examined by the staff surgeon who would report his observations to headquarters.

The men thoroughly enjoyed their naval experience and had benefited by the training they had undergone. The Earby men received their training along with Brigades from Barrowford, Leicester and Warrington... Prior to this course of training most of the members of the Earby Brigade had been to naval hospitals at Haslar, Gosport, Chatham and Plymouth, but had never received instruction on board ship."

Immediately on the outbreak of war in 1914 Mr Heap, having 12 years service with the Corps, together with Mr Veevers, applied to Wakefield for leave of absence from their

posts at New Road School to join the Forces. Annual training had just concluded on HMS Bulwark and HMS Venerable, when fourteen members of the Earby Corps were mobilised to report for duty at Portsmouth. Mr Heap was the local organiser and senior officer of the Sick Berth Reserve outside the Navy and with an impressive display of patriotism when his organising work was finished, Mr Heap left for the Royal Naval Barracks at Portsmouth. He was to serve for 4½ years as senior ward master at the Royal Marine Infirmary Deal, the Royal Naval Barracks Chatham, and Sheerness Dockyard. In April 1915 he returned to Earby on seven days leave from his post at Deal, a seaside resort and the training depot of the Royal Marine Light Infantry. Mr Heap was in charge of the Royal Marine Infirmary and responsible for the whole organisation and control of a staff of 57 sick berth reservists, amongst whom are Mr J G Veevers and Sergeant Greenwood of the Earby division. More than half the patients treated were cases of sickness from the Fleet at Dover, while the remainder were wounded from the monitors which took part in the bombardment of the Belgian coast and other naval engagements, as well as a fair percentage of ordinary accident cases. "We have many a spasm" said Mr Heap to a Craven Herald representative "in as much as the German submarines keep coming into the Downs and our destroyer flotilla comes up from Dover, making no end of fuss. HMS Niger was torpedoed within a mile of the shore on 11<sup>th</sup> November, all the crew being rescued and brought to the infirmary with the exception of about a dozen men who were killed by the explosion. Three weeks ago an enemy aviator dropped five bombs on ships in the Downs, none of which did any damage. He mistook the wreck of the old Montrose (the ship on which Crippen was captured) which broke away from Dover in December and ran aground on the Goodwins, for a huge liner, owing to its elevation out of the water, and wasted several bombs upon it." Mr Heap said he had seen "two German aeroplanes and on Easter Sunday morning a Zeppelin passed over Broadstairs, causing the Deal emergency battalion and Zeppelin guard to turn out and stand by with ten maxim guns until news arrived that the enemy had made off seaward. When the wind was favourable the booming of the big guns on the Belgian coastline could be distinctly heard, while those of the fleet at Dover and other places in the vicinity were almost an every-day accompaniment. All round the coast line were miles of trenches, and scores of miles of wire entanglements, showing that the authorities were prepared for all contingencies."

On his various periods of leave during the War, Mr Heap always visited New Road School. He was awarded the Admiralty Long Service Medal after 15 years service. Both his sons served with the Army, one in the Northumberland Fusiliers and the other in the West Surrey Regiment. In February 1919 S V Heap resumed his duties as headmaster at New Road. However, on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1919, Mr Heap attended an interview with the Kent Education Committee at Maidstone and after 23 years in Earby he resigned his posts as head of the New Road Council School and Evening School and accepted the headship of a school in Sittingbourne. Mr Veevers also secured a new position as headmaster of Langcliffe Council School, Settle. Mr Heap was presented with a travelling bag on behalf of the teachers and scholars at the school by Mr Percy Ellis.

Mrs Betsy Heap was the sister of Jonas Bower who ran a successful greengrocer's shop for many years in Colne Road Earby. He was the grandfather of Nancy Lang who recalls visiting the Heaps in Kent "in the land of cherry orchards". Nancy has kindly loaned the photograph (over) of Mr & Mrs Heap with their daughters.

Writing in 1935 Mr Heap reflected: "When I think of all the old Earby worthies, and remember that they are no more it makes me realise that I am 'getting on' and may soon be numbered with those who have passed on. May I have left some lasting impression for



good with the thousands that have passed through my hands during the forty odd years of my career as a teacher."

Samuel Varley Heap retired in 1933 and died in Sittingbourne in March 1944 at the age of 72, with his widow, Betsy, dying there in 1967.

## EARBY TO COMMEMORATE WWI ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

To commemorate the start of the Great War, Earby Town Council are providing crosses, each with the name, date of death, age, Regimental badge and a poppy, for each of the 169 men lost during the war.

We are looking for relatives, friends, or just people who might have known, through family stories, any of these men, to place their crosses at the war memorial. To date, 23 of the crosses have been "claimed".

Of the 169, 66 were in the West Riding Regiment (Duke of Wellington's), 12 in the Royal Artillery, 8 in both the East Lancashire Regiment and Northumberland Fusiliers. 7 in the West Yorkshire Regiment, The other 61 are spread over a further 36 Regiments,

We have one each from the Canadian Infantry, The Auckland (New Zealand) Regiment and the Australian Infantry, all three with roots in Earby.

Many have a war grave abroad, quite a few were buried back in England. many have no official grave, and were buried where they fell.

On Remembrance Sunday this year, within the service at the War Memorial which starts at 2.30pm, people will be asked to come forwards with the 169 crosses and place them in the memorial gardens at the foot of the War Memorial.

For the men for whom no-one has "claimed" the cross, the young people and children of the area will do this.

Crosses can be delivered, sent by post or collected during the week before from the Poppy Shop which once again will be in the Town Council rooms from 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday inclusive 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November. A warm welcome is extended to all who call in and the kettle is always on!

Please let us know any snippets of information you might have about these men and their families. Things like how the family coped when their men folk went off to war, some families had three or four men who volunteered .or were called up.

During the work putting together all the details for the crosses, it was quite remarkable how many men's real homes were not in Earby and some of them quite a distance

away. It stated for all these men, "lodging on Rostle Top Road or Greenend Road " etc etc. This puzzled me for a while until Bob told me it was because Earby had so much industry and work available that these men had left their home towns and come to work in this area.

It made me sad to think of a man leaving his family to find work, which is bad enough, but then to join up and go off to war without seeing his family to say goodbye and not coming home was quite tragic, as were all our losses even if the family had the chance to say goodbye before they went. What brave men they all were.

Please do get in touch with us, even if you cannot join us on November 9<sup>th</sup>, we would still like to hear from you and we will ensure your cross is placed in the Memorial Garden.

e-mail is the best way to contact me as I am out quite a lot, but I will ring you back if you can bring yourself to talk to my answering machine!

[mail@vera45.plus.com](mailto:mail@vera45.plus.com), 01282 842653 or Vera Cocker, 6 Rawlins Court, Earby. BB18 6NX or at the Earby Town Council Office on Victoria Road, BB18 6US, tel 01282 844965 or any of the Earby Town Council Councillors.

## **INTERESTING LOCAL WAR SNIPPETS FROM THE 1919 WEST YORKSHIRE PIONEER**

31 January

An airman flying a Handley-Page machine passed over Earby on Wednesday and attracted much attention. He was on a journey south and carried 9 passengers. He alighted at Halifax to ascertain his position, the snow-clad moors giving him little guidance as landmarks on his journey.

14 February

Sgt. James Walker 37 Longroyd Rd who won the Military Medal in Italy in 1916 has recently been awarded the bar and mentioned in Lord Cavan's despatches: "During a raid on the enemy trenches this sergeant was in charge of the forward signal station when the line to battalion headquarters was cut by heavy shelling. He made repeated attempts to repair the wire and also laid a line to the advanced signal station on his flank. It was undoubtedly through his efforts carried out under heavy artillery and machine gun fire that communication was maintained throughout the action".

The Earl of Cavan, Commander in Chief of British forces in Italy, sent his congratulations.

17 April

Baptist Roll of Honour listed 117 names. 14 including 2 deacons killed, 3 prisoners of war-Jeff Dolphin, Tom Jackson and Sydney Smith

Comforts Committee – Grace Watson secretary and Mr W Wilkinson treasurer

Over 650 pairs of socks have been sent

In 1915 100 parcels despatched containing sardines, cigarettes, cough pellets, biscuits, butterscotch etc.

At Christmas 1916 100 parcels despatched containing oxo cubes, malted milk, soap tablets, pin tablets, toffee, cigarettes etc.

1917 Christmas a 5s postal order was sent to each one serving from the church and Sun-



day School.

Christmas 1918 despatched 100 pocket wallets and parcels containing scarves, bandages, soldier's night-shirts and 200 sandbags.

During the War the Comforts Fund received subscriptions of £98.15.3 and collections of £39 Nurse Doris Smith, great great grand-daughter of Mr Hartley Windle, one of the founders of the Baptist Church in Earby, was a military nurse in Alexandria for 18 months. The vessel on which she sailed was torpedoed in the Mediterranean in December 1917 and Nurse Smith lost all her belongings but escaped without personal injury, beyond suffering from shock and exposure. She was a member of the Baptist choir.

25 July

Peace Celebrations Thornton

The peace celebrations embraced every resident. Parishioners assembled round the Love Tree at 2 o'clock and joined in singing the National Anthem, following which a procession was formed, headed by Barnoldswick Scouts Bugle Band, and marched to a field adjoining the Rectory, where children's sports were held. All under 14 were presented with a medal and a souvenir packet of chocolates. A free tea for every resident was provided on the field, Mr T Hartley (Barnoldswick) doing the catering. After tea the procession re-formed and marched to the cricket field where a capital programme of sports for the adults was held with prizes from 8s to 2s. Demobilised soldiers belonging to the village were each presented with 5s, and gifts of 10s were sent to men still serving. The cost of the festivities was defrayed by public subscription.

8 August

Earby Peace Celebrations

Thanks to the Heroes who answered the Call

2 days celebrations of Peace and Victory

Over 600 returned servicemen took part on the procession.

Sports on the cricket field

Old people and widows and dependents of fallen soldiers and sailors were entertained to tea in the Coronation hall. Those unable to walk were brought to the Hall by motor cars lent by George Shuttleworth, A J Birley and Jas Turner.

12 September

Allotment cultivation has seen the enthusiasm in many parts of the country waning, but not in Earby.

Local Allotment Holder's Association – Joseph Roberts president, James Lindley secretary – active campaign appealing to ex servicemen who are invited to visit the various allotments, question the holders, examine the produce and learn the advantages derived from cultivating a plot of land.

26 September

To Re-join his Unit

Tom Jackson, a soldier of Kelbrook, was at Skipton Petty Sessions charged with being absent from the Sherwood Foresters. The chairman said "Your pass to your unit has now been signed and you will be able to re-join at once. You are not now a deserter and you are discharged."

10 October

Thomas Windle of no fixed abode was charged at Skipton Petty Sessions with trespassing on a Government Powder Magazine at Salterforth. Evidence was given by George Hodgson, superintendent of the magazine. Windle was remanded for a fortnight to undergo examination and treatment in Skipton Workhouse.

31 October

Earby Family's Refuge from Drunken Husband

Skipton Police Court heard that Greenend Avenue had been in a state of panic and a charge of drunkenness and disorderly conduct was brought against a weaver named William Davies. At 1.45 am PC Taylor had found the prisoner drunk and causing a disturbance. On entering the prisoner's house he found that most of the furniture had been broken with an axe. The prisoner's wife and 5 children were upstairs in one bedroom with the door barricaded. Many neighbours had risen in their night clothes to protect the children from him. Davies had been in the army, wounded 5 times in addition to having been gassed. "The whole street was up". The wife said her husband's behaviour was orderly when not drunk. His conduct was affected by wounds and from gas from which he suffered when in France. She had applied for a separation order but had been induced to give him another chance. Davies was committed to gaol for 14 days.

## EARBY PROCESSION

Vic Maw has donated a copy of the photograph below. It will have been taken in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We have no information about the event. In the foreground are what look like members of the Earby Branch of the St Johns Ambulance. Several of the men in the parade are wearing sashes but even under magnification all that can be read on the sash is a large capital M. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who can shed light on this picture. What do the sashes represent? What was the event?



## HAT MAKING IN OLD EARBY

the late A H Clegg

A further look at an article published in 1929 in the Craven Herald and written by Mr A H Clegg under the title "Thornton-in-Craven, Bygone Days in an Ancient Parish", we take a look at hat-making. The ancient parish then consisted of four "townships", Thornton, Earby, Kelbrook and Harden and Mr Clegg made an analysis of the trade using the Parish Registers from 1713.

Five hatters were mentioned in the Parish Registers for the year 1800. A further examination of these registers shows that hat-making developed in the parish about the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and became a rather important local industry especially in Kelbrook. The first entry connected with hat-making is in 1749 in connection with a hatter who lived at The Hague. Later hatters are mentioned who lived at The Hague, (Old) Stone Trough, Tunstead, Ballhead, Scald Bank, Moor Gate, Hard Clough, as well as several who lived in Kelbrook village, three in Earby and one in Thornton.

It is also known that hat-making was carried on at Heads Farm, Wood Ing (now demolished) and other houses. Hat-making seems to have been concentrated mainly in Kelbrook township, and possibly it was introduced into the parish by way of Foulridge. It has been the privilege of the writer to obtain an interesting description of the process of "hatting" from an old inhabitant of the parish who, when a boy, actually saw the hats being made and who still has in his possession an iron pan which was used in connection with the work. The hats made were felt hats made of felted wool. Felted hats had been known in England since the time of the Norman Conquest in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The hatters first washed the wool until it was beautifully clean and then cut it into short lengths of about half an inch. Next, by means of a simple home-made wooden instrument the wool was teased until it was as fine as down.

A quantity of this down-like wool sufficient to make one hat was then weighed, and by repeatedly dipping it into boiling water – to which was possibly added a quantity of some acid – and rolling it on boards with a sort of rolling pin, the wool was worked until it was felted and of a uniform thickness and a proper size. The hatters worked round a circular iron pan, about two feet three inches diameter and fifteen inches deep, which contained the boiling water. The pan was built round with stone and a fire placed underneath. Thick wooden boards sloped slightly upwards and outwards from the rim of the pan. The felted wool was then shaped by placing it on a stone block shaped like a modern felt hat with the brim turned down.

Other processes were applied and the hat was then dried. When made the hats were white, but in the finishing process they were dyed. They were sold at about 1s 6d to 2s each.

Most of the hatters sold their hats to a middleman, and the rendezvous of one middleman who purchased many of the hats made in this parish was at Haworth. Occasionally, however, a hatter, dissatisfied with the price offered by the middleman, would refuse his offer and go round the district hawking them himself. In time, competition from machine-made felt hats became so keen that it was unprofitable to make them by hand. As conditions grew worse one enterprising local hatter turned his attention to making wool-felted stockings. The stockings would, without doubt, be durable and warm, but his resource did not meet with the success it deserved.

Local hat-making died out and so another skilled domestic industry became a thing of the past.

The following, whose names appear in the registers between 1749 and 1812 are shown as hatters:

1749 James Higson, Kelbrook; 1761 John Higson, The Hague; 1780 Henry Lund, Stone Trough; 1782 Matthew Lund, Stone Trough; 1785 Thomas Lund, Kelbrook; Mark Lund, Ball Head; 1788 Robert Parkinson, Kelbrook; 1789 John Peel, Kelbrook; 1790 William Taylor, Earby; 1793 John Whitaker, Stone Trough; 1795 Hartley Hartley, Kelbrook; John Barrett, Scald Bank; 1797 William and John Brigg, Kelbrook; John Watson, Moor Gate.

## **CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT IN EARBY PART 1**

Stephanie Carter

By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Earby had a population of three and a half thousand. The coming of the railway in 1848 had encouraged people from far and wide to seek employment in the growing cotton weaving industry. These included a large number of Catholics and in 1901 the first Mass in Earby was celebrated. Father Honore Marchal at Broughton Hall began a monthly Mass at Earby. Six years later when St. Joseph's Parish Barnoldswick was established, Earby became part of it but the monthly Mass continued in Earby's Weaver's Institute.

Broughton Chapel of the Sacred Heart, attached to the Hall, was built in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century by Stephen Tempest VI, but Mass had been licensed to be said at the Hall since 1453.



Weavers Institute

In 1925 the Bishop of Leeds detached Earby from St. Joseph's Barnoldswick and formed it into a separate area, St. Patrick's Earby. Father James Holohan from Kilkenny was appointed to the pastoral care of Earby, in addition to the chaplaincy of Broughton and he began the weekly Mass at Earby. The town had neither a Catholic church, school or hall and the Sunday services continued in the Weaver's Institute. Father Holohan found the large congregation ready to support him in the work of building a church in Earby.

In May 1925 the Catholics held their first May procession. The Children of Mary and schoolchildren, with the girls dressed in white with white veils preceded the May Queen, Miss Irene Ruddy, wearing a gold crown and attired in an ivory satin dress with train. The cushion bearer was Miss Esther Turner and the two maids of honour Miss Martha Bland and Miss Janie Mandale. Pages Wilfred Lynch and Herbert Halstead acted as train-bearers. Hymns were sung to the Queen of the May and Miss Ruddy crowned the statue of Our Lady with a crown of natural flowers. The Institute was filled with "a devout congregation".

In 1926 St. Patrick's treat, school tea and field day was held for the first time in the Catholic's own ground in Salterforth Lane. With energy and enthusiasm Father Holohan and his growing congregation began the work of raising sufficient funds to build a new church dedicated to St. Patrick. (For appeal notice see over)

**APPEAL  
FOR  
ST.PATRICK'S BRICKS  
1/- EACH  
50,000 BRICKS  
URGENTLY NEEDED TO  
BUILD A CHURCH  
IN HONOUR OF  
ST. PATRICK  
AT EARBY, YORKSHIRE**

*Earby is a newly founded parish containing about 200 Catholics. There is neither a Catholic Church, nor Catholic School, nor Presbytery in the district. Holy Mass is celebrated every Sunday in a public hall, licensed for dancing. Confessions, Instruction for the Children and Converts, Children of Mary, and other meetings take place in private houses.*

*It is the earnest desire of the Catholics of Earby to provide a permanent home for the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and they are making great sacrifices to obtain funds to build a church in their midst. Their generosity is limited only by their means – they all belong to the working class – and it will take them many years to raise by their own efforts the necessary money. For this reason, a Public Appeal is being made to Catholics outside the parish to come to the aid of the Catholics of Earby.*

*The Bricks are 1/- each, and at least 50,000 Bricks ((£2500) will be needed to build the church at Earby in honour of St. Patrick. Bricks are issued as follows:*

- a) Hod of Bricks – 10 bricks at 1/- each*
- b) Half Hod – 10 half bricks at 6d each*
- c) Quarter Hod – 10 bricketts at 3d each*

*Offerings and donations to Rev. James Holohan, Broughton, Skipton, Yorks.*

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In 1927 architect Charles Simpson of Bradford was commissioned to prepare plans for the building of a permanent church in Salterforth Lane. In February 1928, to celebrate the third anniversary of the establishment of Earby as a separate district, members of St Patrick's congregation held a tea party, concert and dance in the Weaver's Institute. Colne Catholic choir, under the direction of Mr Maloney, gave "a much appreciated" concert and music for dancing was supplied by the Patrician Quartette.

Father Holoran congratulated the Catholics of Earby "on the success of their persistent, self-sacrificing efforts to raise funds towards the building of the church". Plans had been approved by the Diocesan authorities and the local Council and the contractor's estimate was expected in a short time. It was hoped that if satisfactory, provisional arrangements for the laying of the foundation stone at Easter could be made.

**To be continued**

## A GRUELLING EXPERIENCE

At our May meeting, guest speaker, Peter Higinbottom, gave a talk on the history of the workhouse.

The 1601 Poor Relief Act (also known as the Old Poor Law) put the responsibility for looking after the poor on the parish, the cost being met by a poor rate on the wealthier parishioners.

Out-relief was the favoured method of helping the able-bodied poor when they were put to some work or provided with materials for work.

Those paupers who could not work through age or infirmity were given relief at home; the overseer of the poor had to decide who went into each category. However it soon became apparent that money could be saved by bringing the poor together in one place and throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century the larger West Riding towns began to build workhouses. Smaller parishes who could not afford to set up a workhouse "farmed out" the poor, an early form of private contracting whereby the parish paid a local farmer to take in the poor and put them to work.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw a boom in the building of workhouses and by 1776 there were 99 in the West Riding and some 2000 in England yet out relief was still dominant

The 1723 Workhouse Test Act was supposed to make it compulsory for anyone seeking relief to enter the workhouse.

Gilbert's Act of 1782 allowed parishes to co-operate and provide a workhouse between them. There is evidence from Thornton in Craven vestry minutes that they shared with Bolton by Bowland in a workhouse at Holden Clough.

During the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the after-effects of the Napoleonic Wars and the Corn Laws caused an increase in general poverty which partly led to the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. This Act set up poor law unions in which a larger number of communities combined together. Boards of Guardians were appointed with representation from each parish and one central workhouse was set up. Thornton-in-Craven joined the Skipton Union and a workhouse was built at Raikes. Out-relief was abolished, it was the workhouse or nothing. Entry into the Workhouse was voluntary and admission officers regularly toured the member parishes to interview applicants, but if a man or woman went into the workhouse the whole family had to go in with them.

One of the most distressing sides of the workhouse was that once in the institution, families were split up. The Men, women and children all lived and worked in separate wings and never came into contact with each other.

However inmates could leave at anytime as long as they went through the discharge procedures.

Life in the workhouse was monotonous. The able bodied women did domestic duties and the men did stone breaking or corn grinding. Picking oakum was another tedious job where inmates had to manually unpick old ships ropes to the constituent fibres.

The old and infirm had nothing to occupy their time and life must have been exceedingly dull.

Peter illustrated the design and operation of the workhouse with plans and reports on Skipton Union's establishment.

Rules and regulation were laid down for the operation of the Union Workhouse including the food served. Gruel (thin, half strength porridge) cheese and bread featured heavily with meat on certain days of the week. The diet did improve as the years passed

and latterly Peter likened the menu to the traditional School dinners that those of a certain age will remember.

The inmates had uniforms, the females wore a blue and white striped shift and the mens' clothing usually featured a billycock hat

There was a regular daily routine set down. The residents rose at 6-00am and worked from 7-00 until noon and from 1-00pm to 6-00pm followed by supper and prayers and bed time by 8-00pm.

Health care in the workhouse also began to improved until eventually they started to be used by non workhouse people who could not afford to pay for a doctor. In fact the workhouse became the forerunner of the NHS with many of the early NHS hospitals using converted workhouse buildings.

This can only be a brief synopsis of an absorbing, well presented and illustrated talk.

## **EARBY'S WWII HOME GUARD**

Member, Peter Dawson is researching the history of Earby's World War II Home Guard platoon and has started to draw up a list of those local men who served.

Was your father or grandfather in Earby's "Dad's Army", do you have any family story about their experiences. Peter would be delighted to hear from you.

## **FURTHER ADDITIONS TO ARCHIVES**

Following the county boundary changes in 1974 many books concerned with Yorkshire were sent by surrounding Burnley and Pendle Libraries to Barnoldswick Library, the latter being originally in Yorkshire. Consequently, together with Barnoldswick's Yorkshire books, a large collection was accumulated,

Barnoldswick library now has to dispose of this "Yorkshire Collection" to free the space and librarian, Karen Hill, was looking for "a good home" for the books.

Knowing that the Society had an archive room, Karen has kindly donated a collection of material relating to Earby and district. The items include a series of Earby Urban District Council Minute books from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and other material relating to Council matters. Minutes of Salterforth Water Company, Salterforth Institute and some early Earby Co-op minutes. Also included are several books on local history including volumes of Whitakers History of Craven Deanery.

We are very grateful to Karen for donating this collection, who knows what might have happened to it.

The Community Archive, housed in the New Road Community Centre in Earby, is normally open on Friday mornings between 10-00am and 12-00 noon if you would like to visit. If you are travelling from further a field it is always best to check first by contacting [info@earbyhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@earbyhistory.co.uk) or 01282 843850.

If Friday is inconvenient it is possible to arrange an alternative time by using the above contacts

We are currently building up a WWI archive so we would be pleased to hear if you have anything we might include.

## WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY COMMEMORATION (1914-2014)



As readers will no doubt be aware, the Society will be hosting a WWI Commemoration Exhibition in October entitled "Our World War One Story".

The committee, with some help, is busily preparing for the event. Exhibition panels dealing with several themes relating to Earby and District and its people during the War are being printed.

The Society has also obtained a number of lockable glass cabinets to display artefacts safely. In fact it is not too late if you have any WWI items you would like to include in the exhibition.

Please contact Bob Abel on 01282 843850 or [info@earbyhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@earbyhistory.co.uk).

The exhibition will take place at New Road Community Centre in Earby on Saturday and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October from 10-00 – 4-00pm and every one is welcome to come along.

On the Saturday morning, pupils from Earby Springfield School will entertain us with songs contemporary with the period and on Sunday afternoon Earby brass band will perform period music and there will be recitations from the War Poets.

There will be displays of militaria from WWI and DVDs about WWI will be screened and much else.

Refreshment will be provided on both days by Earby Development group who will serve soup and sweets on Saturday and teas on the Sunday.

If you would like to help with the organising of the event we will be pleased to hear from you - contact Bob Abel 01282 843850.

The society is grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for financial backing for the exhibition



Supported by

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## HEIRLOOMS AND ARTEFACTS Bring and Tell

The Christmas meeting this year will be an Heirlooms and Artefacts evening, We are looking to members to bring along an item which has a special significance to them. By heirlooms we do not mean you have to bring along great grandma's diamond tiara, it could be any item of family memorabilia with a story behind it.

We will also bring a selection of items out of the society's artefact collection to view and discuss.

The meeting will be rounded off with festive refreshments

Tuesday 17th December.



## BUILDING BRIDGES WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

By Margaret Brown

During the spring terms both Salterforth and Earby Springfield schools contacted the society for help with history projects.

Salterforth school is taking part in a lottery funded project called "Putting Salterforth on the Map" from which a Salterforth Heritage trail will be created. As a start, the pupils wanted information on their village in the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I was able to go to the school one afternoon when I talked to most of the pupils in class groups about growing up in the village and attending Salterforth Primary School in the 1960's. I told them of the games we played what people did in the village, and about how Salterforth developed. Then a few weeks later I talked to the class of 8 and 9 year olds about using census records to look at who lived in the village and how the information in the census could be used to build up a picture of work, ages, houses, and many other things about village life. I gave them a copy of the 1911 census for Salterforth and demonstrated how it could be used for their project on village life. We then walked to the cemetery to look at grave stones to discover who lived in the village the ages at their death and where they lived. As a follow up they were going to do work in the class room building up their project about village life.

Earby Primary School wanted to know about Earby in 1914 to start their project on the First World War. They were interested in finding out about the shops and houses and what it was like to be a child at that time.

I talked to the class of 8 and 9 year olds about this giving them a slide show of some of the society's photographs of Water Street and Victoria Road. We talked about what things could be bought in the town and how the streets were different from today. I also took a selection of our WWI artefacts for the children to handle, they were very interested in these and enjoyed having the opportunity to look closely at things they had only seen in pictures. The children then went into the town to compare the photographs with today's streets.

It was a lovely experience to work with the children, they were all well behaved and asked lots of questions and seemed to get a real understanding of how history can teach you about why we are as we are today.

It makes it worthwhile having the archive room when the records and items can be used in this way.

The society looks forward to more collaborations with schools in the future.

## HISTORIC SIGN



This Yorkshire Ouse and Hull River Authority Sign was for many years situated on the beck wall in Water Street opposite the old co-op building. Those years took its toll on the sign and before it fell off the wall, local resident Pat Spencely took it down for safe keeping.

Earby Town Council have had it restored and replaced in its original position.

Bev Parker wrote an article on the Earby and Salterforth flood prevention in Chronicles edition 52 Winter 2009

## CHURCHILL AVENUE

During last year's Northholme Estate exhibition and open day it was proposed by member Peter Dawson that the name of the road (Churchill Avenue) where the Estate's Community Centre is sited should be reinstated. In fact Peter made a temporary name board for the occasion as there hasn't been one for many years.

When the original estate of prefabricated houses was built all the roads were named after midlands towns as most of the residents moved from the Birmingham and Coventry area to work in the local World War II shadow factories. One street however was named in honour of our war time leader, Winston Churchill.



Peter Dawson and the new name board

With the help of Councillor Vera Cocker the Society persuaded Pendle Council to reinstate the name board which has now been installed.



A scratch built model of a pair of Northholme prefabs built by Peter Dawson

### THE SOCIETY

Meets at the Community Centre, New Road, EARBY on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. (except for outside visits).

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
**£7.00**  
**UK £9.00**  
**Overseas £13.00**

### Contents:

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of information in this edition, this cannot be guaranteed.

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**Don't forget** this is your newsletter. Send in articles, photos and any other anecdotes, so that we get as wide a flavour of Earby & District, yes that means Thornton in Craven, Kelbrook, Sough, Harden and Salterforth as well.

### EDITOR

Stephanie Carter  
01756 794099

### PROGRAMME

**Saturday and Sunday 18th/19th October**  
**Exhibition at New Road Community Centre, Earby**  
**"Our World War I Story"**

**Tuesday October 21st "Guy Fawkes – Yorkshireman"**  
**By Gillian Waters**

**Tuesday November 18th "Kitchener's Pals"**  
**By Steve Williams**

**Tuesday 17th December "Heirlooms and Artefacts"**  
**Bring along an item to discuss**  
(see page 16)

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### 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.