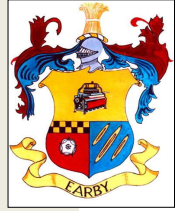


# Earby Chronicles

Edition 106

Autumn 2022

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



Bristol Tractors moved to Earby from Bradford in 1945. From then until the 1971 closure of their Sough Bridge factory, they exported tractors, including the crawler track-laying tractor with a unit attached for a plough all over the world. Cost of bungalows being built opposite was advertised at £3650.

## **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

## IT ALL HAPPENED AT SOUGH

Stephanie Carter

In 1921 the Earby Urban District War Memorial was unveiled in the Memorial Grounds at Sough Park. This was followed in 1923 with two hard tennis courts built on the site. A Memorial Bowling Club was also established, together with lawns and flower beds; and beyond the stream a children's playground. Sough Park has given pleasure and a place for quiet reflection to many people for a hundred years.



Cotton manufacturing had been carried out at Sough Bridge from the late 1880s. In 1899 the weaving shed was under new management and was to be enlarged to enable the manufacture of coloured goods. In 1905 the Kelbrook Mill Co. at Sough Bridge erected an extension to house 200-250 looms. In 1910 the weaving shed was again enlarged and the Kelbrook Manufacturing Co. sub-let the mill to three tenants. By 1930 Nutter Brothers had most of the shed, with Messrs. Roberts & Co. having another part. The firms continued trading through the 1932 strikes over wage reductions in the cotton industry, despite a complete stoppage at other mills in Earby. In August 1932 a nasty incident happened outside the mill with some 2,000 protesters clashing with police. Stones were thrown and a man from Barnoldswick was fined £5 by magistrates for assaulting a police officer. Hundreds of people from Nelson, Colne and Barnoldswick continued to gather at

the mill, with local police, reinforced by men from Skipton and several mounted police, pressing them back. The Sough Bridge disturbances were reported in newspapers far and wide including, Halifax, Liverpool, Hull, Nottingham and Portsmouth.

In June 1934 Mary Cook of Sough won £600 and a weekly prize of £1.10s for life in a crossword competition. Whilst in July 1935 postman Arthur Powell of Arthur Street was knocked down by a train on the Earby level crossing; he died in hospital and was shortly to have retired on pension.

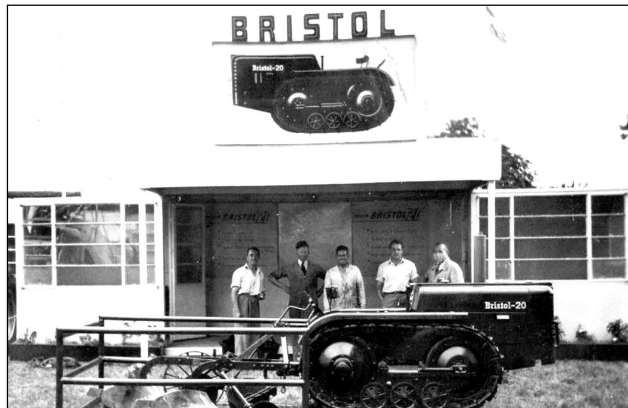
During the 40s The Grove and Sough Social Club and the Grove and Sough Football Club were popular with workers. Football matches took place on the Sough Bridge ground.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War the mill was taken over by the Rover Company, who re-located from Coventry, for the manufacture of piston aero-engines.

In 1940 55 men from Kelbrook and Sough were in the Forces. In September 1944 Driver Teddy Benson, Royal Engineers, died from wounds received in Normandy; his parents lived in Clifton Street Sough. (In 1915 another Sough lad, Pte Joseph Johnson was killed in action in the Dardanelles). In June 1945 one man, Leading Aircraftman (L A.C). A Ridge, of Colne Road Sough, recounted some of his experiences when he returned home on leave after serving abroad with the RAF since 1941. He was stationed in Central India near Bhopal and told of the nearby native village of bamboo and mud huts. He had reached India in the middle of the monsoon and was soaked with rain as he had not been equipped to meet the situation. Occasionally he had had a short leave in Northern India, where he could see the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas. Before joining up L.A.C Ridge had worked as a weaver at A J Birley's and had been a Special Constable in the Earby area for 10 years. His brother was captured in Singapore and nothing had been heard from him for three years.

In 1945 Sough Bridge Mill was made available by the Ministry of Supply following the end of war-time production and the engineering firm of Bristol Tractors moved from Bradford and were to remain at Sough

until 1971. Three firms were set up – Bristol Tractors, Forecast Foundry and Kelbrook Metal Products. In 1948 a Yorkshire-produced tractor – the first crawler track-laying tractor with a unit-attached plough was developed and designed by Mr K Field. The Sough firm planned to turn out 1,000 of the tractors in the first years to be exported all over the world, particularly in fruit-growing countries, for a cost of £495. In the 50s there was extensive trade between Bristol Tractors Sough and Argentina for agricultural tractors.



In the mid-1950s, the Kazooligans Comic Band, made up for the most part of employees from Bristol Tractors, gave pleasure to many.



In April 1949 a tragic accident happened in Colne Road, Sough when Ian Watson Toothill, aged 8, the eldest son of PC and Mrs Toothill, was involved in a cycling accident outside his home. He accidentally banged into the back of his friend's cycle and fell into the road. A lorry swerved to avoid the boys, but Ian died in Burnley Victoria hospital



There used to be two corner shops at Sough, to cater for the workers at Sough Bridge and visitors to the Park and Memorial Grounds, one near the park gates and Grahams at 99 Colne Road, nearer the mill.

The chimney at Sough Bridge Mill was demolished in 1979.



## POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Squire Firth

My son recently bought me three old Earby postcards from Ebay – views of the waterfalls and Fiddling Clough. They are all in very good condition, addressed, date stamped and with written text. All had been sent from Wesley House, Earby, to a person at an address near York and postmarked 1904, 1906 and 1907.



Mr James Lindley, head master of the Wesleyan Day School, lived at this address with his wife Alice and two sons James and Albert. The postcards had been sent to Miss Jane Dodds, a friend of Mrs Alice Lindley's parents (the Sutherbys) at Brafferton near York.

My interest in the cards is that my aunt Alice Firth, eldest of my father's ten siblings, married Mr Lindley's son James and I still have a close connection with the Lindley family. It is such a coincidence that three post cards, bought for their scenic value, have turned out to be of significant family interest, and have been returned after about 120 years.

The postcards are now in the possession of Mr John Lindley, great grandson of James Lindley, who also resides near York.

*More information on Mr James Lindley when he became head master of Earby Alder Hill Council School in 1910 will be available in a new book by Stephanie Carter on the history of the school, to be published by the Society later this year 2022.*

## BITS AND PIECES ABOUT FIDDLING CLOUGH

Above the Earby Waterfalls and at one time accessed via Dark Lane, Fiddling Clough stands in a hollow on the edge of the moor. Due perhaps to its sheltered position, the building, uninhabited for many years, remains standing.



Fiddling Clough was once owned by Thornton Church. In 1919 manufacturer Amos Nelson of the Gledstone Estate bought it and rented it to Tom Jaques. In 1949 Amos Nelson sold Fiddling Clough to Tom Lumb, a paper mill owner from Skipton.

Early tenants included John Wilkinson (John O'Neds) who opened his famous "hen hoil" (Chronicles 2005) and Sylvester Lowcock. In 1913 two snippets from the newspapers record:

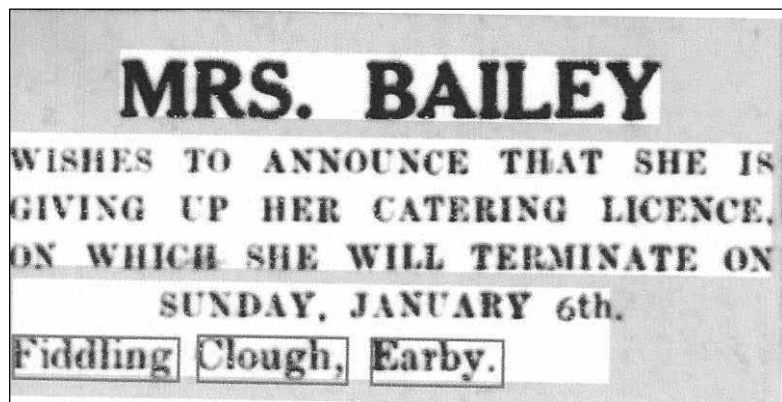
July 1913 - Naturalists Ramble: Earby Naturalist Society rambled to Fiddling Clough. They were met by Henry Robinson, a well-known

botanist from Colne, and found 80 different floral specimens. They were entertained to tea in a tent belonging to Mr G F Townend.

September 1913 - Pleasant Hour: The group rendezvoused at Fiddling Clough where Mr G F Townend placed his tent at their disposal. There was an exciting programme of music and recitations and two addresses were given. An excellent tea was provided and after a few games the party returned home.

From 1921 to 1937 Tom Jaques' farm manager, my grandfather Amos Holden, his wife Rachel and 8 children (including my late mother) lived at Fiddling Clough. Their life there has been described in past editions of the Chronicles (2004/2005).

In the 1940s Mr and Mrs J T Bailey lived at the Clough and many religious meetings were held there. In August 1943 the Colne and Barnoldswick branch of the WEA held a one-day school at the home of the Baileys. Topics included the American Life and Policies and Teacher's experiences in the Mid-West. In August 1944 and June 1945 the Mount Zion Sisterhood held well-attended meetings at Fiddling Clough at the invitation of Mrs Bailey. After a service, tea was provided. In January 1946 the following advert was placed in the local press:



Mr John Thomas Bailey died at 11 Mill Brow in February 1948. It was reported that "Mr Bailey was a native of the town and for many years was in the hardware business, before he took up residence in Bir-

mingham. On his retirement he took up residence at Fiddling Clough. A member of a well-known Earby family, he was connected with Mount Zion Church but he joined the Society of Friends shortly after the 1914-18 War, being a valued member of the Salterforth Society. He leaves a widow and three children."

Later tenants of Fiddling Clough have included:

Mr F Templeton (1946) – the family lived at the cottage at the end of the building and Mr Templeton mended boots and clogs

Arthur and Fred Waddington – Fred was a member of the Brass Band Old Mr Shuttleworth

Group Captain Hartley, said to be bombastic, from Liverpool. He had been in the air force during the war and had a French wife Georgette.

The farm is now owned by the Wood family of Oakslack.

## **TWO LOCAL NEWSPAPER REFERENCES TO EARBY HEADMASTER (1885-1920)**

### **JAMES LINDLEY**

(Referred to in Postcards from the Past)

Nelson Chronicle, Colne Observer & Clitheroe Division News 25 July 1890

An Earby Schoolmaster Upsets a Bicyclist on the Road

James Lindley, schoolmaster, Earby, was summoned by Fred Cockbaine, joiner, Colne, for assault, the case being a somewhat peculiar one. Mr Benbow from Mr Hodgson's office, Burnley, appeared for the complainant, and Mr W A Robinson for the defendant. Mr Benbow said the case was a rather serious one. The defendant had to thank a kind Providence that he did not appear in the box on a charge of manslaughter. On the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. last the complainant, in company with a friend, was riding a bicycle between the Stone Trough public house and Earby. The complainant was riding an ordinary bicycle and his companion was riding a safety. They were riding in a rut on the left

hand side of the road, and were thus obeying the ordinary rules of the road. As they were riding along they met the defendant and his wife on the wrong side of the road. They allowed the first cyclist, who was three or four yards in front of his friend, to pass, but the complainant was thrown from his machine. Had he ridden six inches further he would have been thrown with his head against an old thorn tree. As it was he injured his foot severely and damaged his machine.

Fred Cockbaine, joiner of Colne said he was riding in company with a friend, Willie Crawshaw, who was three or four yards in front. The defendant turned round and deliberately threw him off causing him to go over the machine and alight on his face in the middle of the road. The machine was damaged to the extent of 7s. The defendant's wife said to him at the time "You ought not to have done that for you might have lamed him".

William Crawshaw, confectioner of Colne, said the defendant seized the backbone of the machine and threw his companion off. P.C. White denied that there were deep ruts as alleged by some of the witnesses, and said the road was seven yards wide.

The defendant was allowed to make a statement. He said that on the day in question he had been at the Sunday School. He and his wife were going up Thornton Road, his wife pushing the perambulator. They saw the two cyclists coming towards them, and one evidently a gentleman turned into the road, but the complainant said in a reproachful tone "They are on the wrong side", and he rode directly by the perambulator. Had there been a stone on the road, he would have been thrown into the perambulator and might have killed the children. He was evidently a clever rider, for he turned suddenly into the centre of the road. Instinctively he threw out his arm to preserve himself and caught the complainant's elbow. The complainant lost his balance and was thrown into the centre of the road.

The Chairman said there had been a loss of temper. The defendant had naturally become excited at feeling alarmed, but at the same time they did not think that he was justified in acting as he did. A fine of 2s 6d and costs was imposed.

Barnoldswick and Earby Times 16 November 1951 / Dalesman

Writing in the current issue of the Yorkshire Dalesman, in a series "A Yorkshirewoman looks back", May Crewe makes reference to a strike that took place at one of the mills shortly after she went to live in Earby. During the strike someone pushed a policeman into the beck. A colleague of mine tells me that he covered the disturbance in Earby that day and arrived on the scene shortly after "the arm of the law" had floundered its way out of the cold water of the beck.

May Crewe says that it was winter when she came to live in Earby. Mounted police were present during the strike demonstrations and a woman had pushed a hatpin into one of the horses the day before. It had reared and broken a shop window.

She recalls the work of schoolmaster James Lindley. "He was a fine man", she writes, "who had taught the parents of many of those with whom I went to school. He was a teacher who made the morning Scripture half hour come alive. I shall never forget him telling the story of David pretending to be the mad King Saul. Mr Lindley started a school library when libraries were not common".

May Crewe tells how, after leaving school in Barnoldswick at the age of 13, she went into weaving and liked the work. She married in 1918 and her husband left the shop in which he had been employed to start work as a railway porter at a small country station.

### **Editor's Note**

May was born May Arnold in 1898 in Blackburn. She was adopted by Joseph and Sarah Wood, who were living in Earby in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A son, Frank, was born there in 1908. In 1911, when May was 12 the family had moved to Barnoldswick. The 1939 register shows May living with her husband Wilfred, a railway signalman, in Skipton. She died in 1980 aged 81.

The strike referred to by May Crewe involved a dispute by workers at the Earby Manufacturing Co. in 1905-06, detailed in the Society's publication "A Clatter of Clogs in the Mills of Earby".

# SALTERFORTH BOAT BUILDING BUSINESS

## PART 2

Editor

In 1955 Thomas and Alice Wilkinson of Salterforth had celebrated their Golden Wedding. A Craven Herald reporter visited the old boat-building yard on the canal bank beyond Salterforth and later interviewed the Wilkinsons, who recalled the days when the boat yard was a scene of great activity with boats being turned out regularly. This is an edited account of the article/ interview:

“In the old boat building yard on the canal bank beyond Salterforth, an old hulk stands rotting, short of paint and with boards missing. Around, pieces of timber are scattered in confusion, and the yard as a whole has a gaunt, deserted appearance. Yet that rotting hulk is a symbol of bygone days, a dying craft, an industry which has become yet another victim of progress and mechanisation, for it is road transport, speedy and direct, which has brought boat building to its knees....



Tom in his younger days

Ever since he was a lad, with one short break, Mr Wilkinson has worked in the yard, and he still goes down every day, “just to see if anyone has pinched it”. It is a number of years since boats were built there, and in more recent years Mr Wilkinson has worked as a wheelwright. Carts made by him have gone to all parts of the Dales, where their sturdy construction has withstood the test of hard rough

work in the same way as canal barges stood up to it previously.

Seventy four years ago (1881) Mr Wilkinson was born at Newsholme, the son of a farmer. The family moved on two or three occasions, at one time his father worked for Col. R F Roundell, who was MP for the Skipton Division. Later they moved to Spen Head Farm at Klondyke, Salterforth, and one day, Mr Wilkinson’s uncle, Holgate Marsden,

called to ask young Tom if he would like to learn boat building in a business he had started at Salterforth. Thomas agreed and there he has worked ever since.



Tom is behind the sign

Most of the boats built were canal barges, many of them for the old Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company. In the early days of the concern, everything was handmade; there was not a single machine in the whole place though, of course, there was a boiler to steam the planks so that they could be bent to the required shape. Cutting by hand was a long, tedious job, but eventually a steam engine was obtained, then a circular saw, and finally a hand saw. The barges were designed to carry up to 65 tons. Many of the barges were used for transporting stone from the quarries behind Salterforth. In those days there was an overhead wire down to the landing bay at the yard and stone was sent down directly from the quarry.

When the yard was working at full pressure, there were nine or ten men employed there. Eventually the number got down to four, and when a barge had to be pulled off the stocks, help had to be obtained from nearby houses. About three canal barges would be built each year. If they were of the one cabin type, they would, at the turn of the

century, cost £195, or £240 for a double cabin type. When the last barge was made about 30 years ago (1925), it cost £1,200. What it would cost today, in spite of mechanisation, is anyone's guess.

Timber used to be obtained by Mr Wilkinson from Ingleton – round English oak. It was carried by rail to Skipton, where it was cut into required lengths and then transported by barge to Salterforth. A good deal of long oak planking was bought in Liverpool. Apart from barges, small rowing boats were built, among them those which used to give much pleasure at Bracewell Hall.

One would imagine that working with boats all the year round, Mr Wilkinson would have been glad to get away from them at holiday times, but that was not the case. Indeed he had a pleasure boat in which he used to go away on holiday, sometimes by canal, sometimes into the rivers...

Mrs Alice Wilkinson also came from a farming family and was born at Moses Lee, Barnoldswick, and then moved to Lower Greenhill Farm Salterforth and later to Booth House Farm. Her father was Thomas Whitaker, a well-known cornetist in the district..."

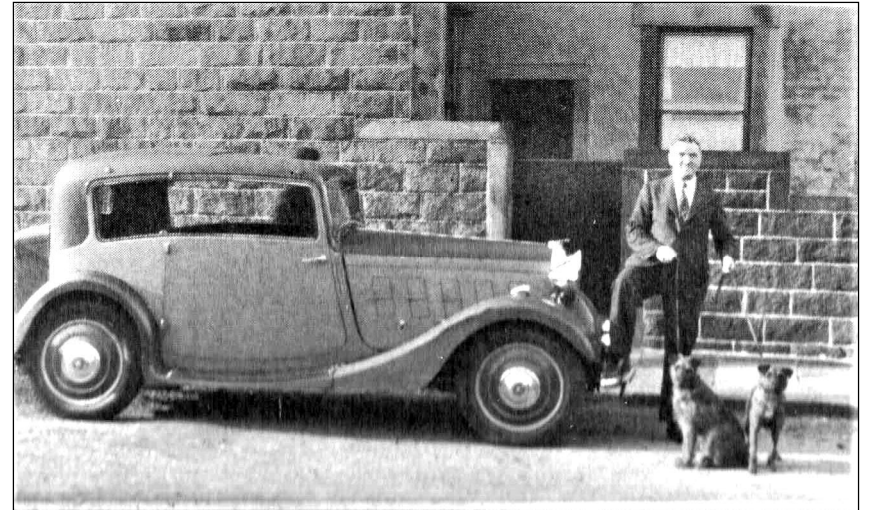
(10 years later, in 1965, the Wilkinsons celebrated their Diamond Wedding. Again Mr Wilkinson recalled his 36 years working in the trade, estimating that he built almost 100 boats, mostly barges, which, in those days, were the chief means of transporting goods in large quantities. During the 1<sup>st</sup> World War he worked at Birkenhead repairing ships. He was a remarkable man, dying in 1968 aged 88.)

## **ANOTHER EARBY FAMILY DOCTOR OF YESTERYEAR - DR ERNEST BATEMAN JAGOE**

Stephanie Carter

Ernest Bateman Jagoe was born 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1890 in Kinsale, County Cork in the west of Ireland. His father was William Jagoe (1856-1944) and his mother Eva Marie Bateman (1852-1925). The 1911 census shows Ernest, aged 21, a student of medicine, living in Mullendunny, Kinsale, with his parents and siblings, sisters Hassie

Levis 24, Emily 22, Eva 18 and brothers William 23, Sami Charles 20, Charles 16, John Wesley 15, and Robert 10.



Ernest Bateman Jagoe qualified as a physician and surgeon. Soon after he qualified he moved to England, in 1920 living in Spelthorne in the parish of Ashford, Surrey. In Kelly's Directory 1927 Dr Ernest Bateman Jagoe was listed as having set up a practice in Earby, the surgery being run from his home at 147 Colne Road. He called the house Kinsale and was to live there until his death in 1972. The 1939 census records Ernest B Jagoe, single, physician and surgeon, aged 49, living at 147 Colne Road. His long-time housekeeper was Lizzie Brown, then aged 54.

Other doctors practising in Earby at the time were Dr Alex Falconer from the Crossings and Dr Andrew McKay Niven from Oldfield House.

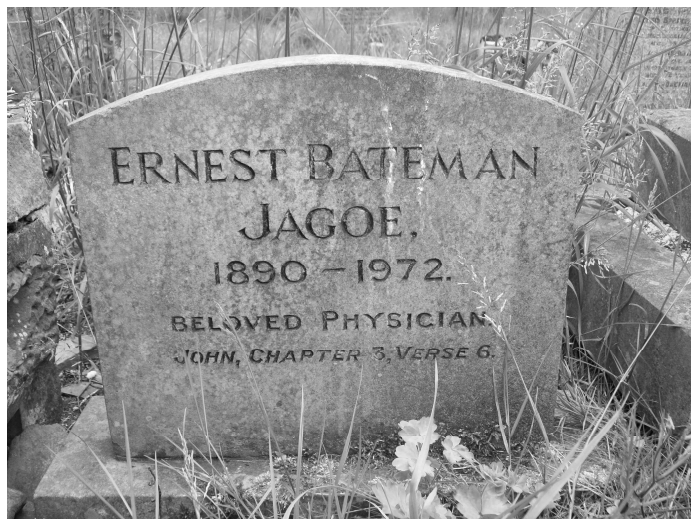
Dr Jagoe was a true family doctor and very well liked. He remained single and had a reputation for visiting and "camping" widows. I recall him, in the 1950s, visiting my grandma's sister, Mary Shuttleworth, in Colne Road. He was involved with the St. John Ambulance and the Earby British Legion.

Dr Jagoe was often called out to deal with accidents. Examples of these included to a quarryman's injuries, (August 1930), local actress



May Rainford's severe burns caused by an oil-stove explosion at her home, (Sept. 1936), a Skipton signalman's death on a train (July 1938), a man crushed between the buffers of two railway waggons in the shunting yard at Earby station (July 1945) and the aftermath of an Earby woman's suicide attempt (Sept 1955).

Dr Jagoe died on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1972 aged 82. He is buried in St. Mary's Church Kelbrook and probate records show he left £22,550.



## **“A FUNERAL HITCH” LEADS TO FAMILY RESEARCH ON ANCESTRY**

Stephanie Carter

In the 1920s and 1930s John Hartley penned a series of articles on Earby through 60 Years, which were published in the Craven Herald. From his article entitled “Engaging tour round and about the town”, I have extracted the following snippet:

A Funeral Hitch

“Longroyd Road Farm was carved out of the Moor Hall Estate and belonged to Mr John Sutcliffe, formerly of White Moor. Mr Sutcliffe, who was a widower, and his son John, a bachelor, together with a

daughter, Margaret, who acted as housekeeper, continued in residence there for many years. About 40 years ago the father and son died within a day of each other and they were buried on one day, in the same grave at Winewall Inghamite Chapel. The interment ceremony was interrupted by a singular occurrence. The father was stout, and the son was tall, and the grave was too narrow for the father's coffin, and too short for that of his son. The farm has since been occupied by Jas Carlisle, Mr T Petty and Mr Whiteoak.”

On a summer's day in 2010 I went to Winewall in pursuit of the story of the “Funeral Hitch”. The chapel had been converted into flats, but after consulting plans of the graveyard in Colne library, I easily found the Sutcliffe grave. The family must have been quite well off. John Sutcliffe was described in records as a yeoman – that is he owned the land he farmed. A note after the first burial of John's wife in the Register of Burials at Winewall Inghamite Chapel 1753-1996 states “Paid for the ground”. Also the grave and memorial stone is the largest and most impressive in that part of the cemetery. The inscription on the stone reads:

**In affectionate remembrance on JANE, the wife of JOHN SUTCLIFFE  
Of Long Hill near Colne  
Who died February 7 1875 in her 58<sup>th</sup> year  
Also of the above named JOHN SUTCLIFFE  
Of Earby who died April 8 1892 in his 77<sup>th</sup> year  
Also of JOHN their son  
Who died April 4 1892 aged 42 years  
Also MARGARET their daughter  
Who died October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1927 aged 83 years.**

So the grave and details of the deceased were correct, so one can assume that the story of the “Funeral Hitch” was also correct. Re-reading the above story I have taken to ancestry to find out more about the family.

John Sutcliffe was born in 1815 in Trawden; his parents being John, a weaver and Jane nee Driver.

July 1843 John Sutcliffe married Jane Simpson at St Bartholomew's

church Colne. Jane's birth in 1817 was registered by her mother Margaret Simpson, a spinster, of Foulridge. On 13 September 1819, Margaret Simpson married Jane's father, Benjamin Barritt (born 1801), a hatter in Foulridge. The 1841 census shows Jane, then a weaver, living with her parents Benjamin and Margaret Barritt and other children in Foulridge.

The 1851 and 61 census returns show the Sutcliffe family living at **Long Hill, Foulridge:**

**John Sutcliffe 35 (45 1861) farmer of 21 acres born Trawden**  
**Jane 33 (43 1861) wife hand loom weaver born Foulridge**  
**Margaret 7 (17 1861) bobbin winder born Foulridge**  
**Mary 5 (15 1861) scholar born Foulridge \* see below**  
**Hartley 3 (13 1861) born Foulridge**  
**John 1 (11 1861) born Foulridge**  
**Jane 9 1861**

The above named daughter \*Mary Sutcliffe married blacksmith Edward Crabtree in 1868. They had three children, Herbert, Walter and Walker Crabtree  
(As adults Herbert and Walker Crabtree farmed at Little Hague)

At the time of the **1871** census John and Jane Sutcliffe were still living on the farm at Long Hill, where Margaret 27, Hartley 23 and daughter **Jane 18 \*see below** were cotton weavers. A further addition to the family was **grandson Herbert Crabtree**, aged 1.

The above named daughter \*Jane Sutcliffe married warehouseman William Sagar Colbert and their children were John William and Margaret Ellen Colbert

John Sutcliffe's wife, Jane died in 1875 aged 57. And the 1881 census records the following living at Long Hill:

**John Sutcliffe 65 widower farmer 25 acres b Trawden**  
**Margaret Sutcliffe 27 domestic servant b Foulridge**  
**John Sutcliffe 31 farm servant b Foulridge**  
**Herbert Crabtree 11 grandson scholar b Salterforth**  
**Margaret Ellen Colbert 1 grand-daughter b Foulridge**

Hartley Sutcliffe married Martha Thompson in 1876. He farmed at

Heirs House and later Malkin Tower Farm, Blacko, dying 1913.

In **1891** John Sutcliffe, widower, aged 75, farmer, John Sutcliffe, son, aged 41, farm servant and Margaret Sutcliffe daughter, aged 47 farm servant were living at **Longroyd House, Earby.**

**John Sutcliffe senior died 8 April 1892.** His will described him as a yeoman. with probate to William Sagar Colbert book-keeper (son in law) and Herbert Crabtree farm assistant (grandson). He left £132.10s.

**John Sutcliffe the younger**, farmer's assistant, died **4<sup>th</sup> April 1892.** Probate was as stated in his father's will and his assets were £61.12.6

By the time of the 1901 and 1911 census's **Margaret Sutcliffe**, aged 57 and 67 and "living on her own means" had moved into Longroyd Cottage. John W Smith occupied the farm. In 1894 Miss Mary Teasdale from Pickering had obtained an appointment at the Wesleyan School in Earby. In a memoir she recalled "When I lived in Earby I lodged near a farm at the bottom of Longroyd Lane, and that lane was a perfect nightmare to me on dark nights, excepting when my landlady (Miss Sutcliffe) escorted me with her lantern".

She died 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1927 with probate to Walter Crabtree engineer and John William Colbert loom overlooker (nephews). Her effects were £361.16.9.



## DONATION TO SOCIETY ARCHIVES

We are delighted to have been given, from the old ambulance hall, the late Hubert Hodgson's emergency first aid kit, to be used should a major incident occur. Most of the items are from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Hubert Hodgson of Kelbrook was a stalwart of Earby St John Ambulance for many years. He was invested with the insignia of Serving Officer of the Order of St John by

Lord Caccia, Lord Prior ,for his services to humanity and for promoting them in the Order.



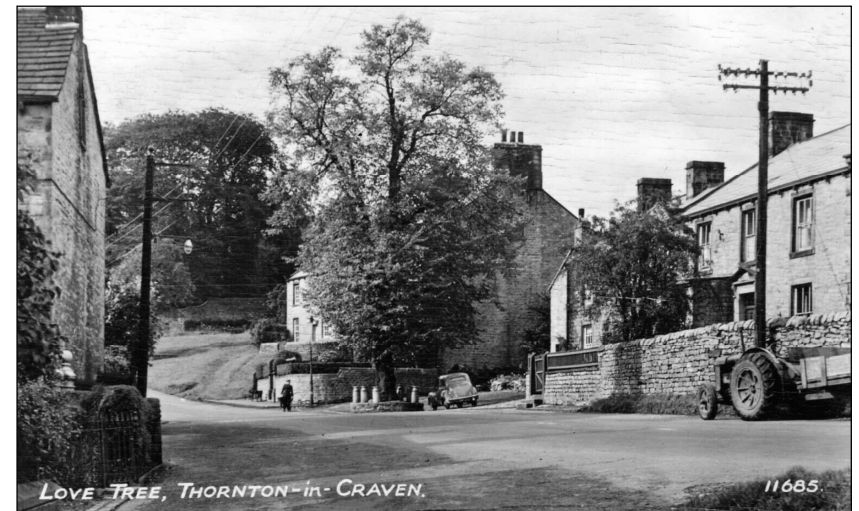
Thanks to Hubert's son, Colin, for the donation.

## TREE PLANTING 1897 THORNTON-IN-CRAVEN

Further to the enquiry in the Summer Chronicles as to the location of the chestnut tree planted in Thornton to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria—We have received the following from member Vera Brearey:

“The tree on the Old Road is the Coronation tree of 1952. If this other much older tree really is a chestnut I suspect it’s the one on the main green, opposite the village hall and in front of Beech House. It stands on its own in the middle of the green. Sadly, it’s a really struggling tree at the moment, and the parish council are concerned about it. There are other chestnuts in the village, but if I were wanting to make a show, the green would probably be the place to do it.”

As far as I (Editor) recall the lime tree in front of the old post office was planted c 2003 to replace a former lime tree which was thought to be 200 years old and was in a dangerous state.



## CONSERVATIVE CLUB KELBROOK

Reference Summer Chronicles

An article in the Burnley Express 18th Feb. 1939 reads:

Owing to financial difficulties the Kelbrook Conservative Club has

been closed. There is still hope that it may ne re-opened, however, for the situation is being considered by the Skipton Divisional Conservative headquarters. An entertainment committee has been formed in the village with the object of raising money to assist the club. During 1937 there was a similar crisis in the affairs of the club and the premises were closed. Mr F W Carter, the president, came to the rescue with generous financial assistance.



## THORNTON POST OFFICE PART 2

Bob Abel

By the turn of the century, the post office had been taken over by a Leeds man, Harry F Allies, who was described as grocer and post master. Harry had previously (1891 census) worked in a grocer's shop in Leeds as an assistant grocer.

By 1911 the Allies family was well established at the post office with Harry being grocer and post master. They also had two nieces, relatives of his wife, and two boarders plus a domestic servant. Harry's wife Ellen was at her sister's in Leeds at the time of the census.

According to Kelly's directory for 1927 the Allies were still at the post office in Thornton.

Post Office.—Harry Frederick Allies, sub-postmaster. Letters through Skipton. The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Earby. There is also a telegraph office at Thornton Railway station, with delivery on station premises only, open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on week days only



Harry died in 1935 and his wife in 1937.

The post office was taken over by a new postmaster, Joseph Ellwood with his wife Isabella, the premises being described as post office and small shop. The Ellwoods married in Skipton in 1933 and had probably been farmers with connections at Laneshawbridge and Bordley (electoral registers). However Isabella died in 1940 in a nursing home in Brierfield.

Whether Joseph came out of the post office on the death of his wife is not known for certain as there are no electoral rolls for the war period. However a Joseph Ellwood can be found in 1945 living at 16 Main Street Kelbrook with Sydney and Ann Ward. Thomas and Mary Spencer were now at the Thornton Post Office.

Electoral registers suggest they ran the post office until 1954 when the Holmes took it over.

Thomas Frederick Spencer was the youngest son of Thornton's village bobby and he was born at Thornton in 1892. His father was from Derbyshire and being a policeman he had several transfers around the country at one time being the bobby for Cracoe. He finished his career in Thornton, as on the 1911 census for Thornton he is listed as a retired policeman. The 1911 census also lists the 18 year old Thomas F Spencer as a groom (domestic).

In 1916 Thomas married Mary Jane Bower at Sedgefield in County Durham. Mary Jane was born in Ellenstring, a small village in Wensleydale. In 1892 and in 1901 she and her family were living in Sedgefield.

I wondered how Thomas F came to marry a Wensleydale girl in Sedgefield. How had they met? The 1911 census gave the answer. Mary Jane was in service to the Carr family in Thornton, she was 19 and described as "a useful maid (domestic)". So this is how they would have met. Perhaps Thomas F the domestic groom worked for the Carr family.

After their marriage they came back to Thornton to live and they appear to have had two children registered at Skipton, Jack in 1920 and Alec H in 1926. The gap between marriage and the first son suggests that perhaps Thomas F was away in the Great War but no service record has been found.

In 1926 Thomas and Jane were living at the Summit in Thornton.

In the 1939 register they were living in Marton on the Gledstone estate where Thomas was a car driver/mechanic (Domestic). He had swapped the horse for the motor car and was probably chauffeur to Amos Nelson.

The couple first appear in the post office in Thornton in the electoral register in 1945 and last in 1955. There is a gap in the electoral register for the war period so I cannot say for sure when they took on the post office, it may even have been during the war.

In 1955, Thomas Spencer decided to sell the post office and shop. I suspect he may have been in poor health; he had not quite reached retirement age and died only three months after vacating the business.

The shop and post office was bought by Edward Holmes. He was offered the shop but thought that this would not be a viable business without the post office and did not accept it until he had gone through the procedures to qualify as a sub post master.

Information about the Holmes tenure at the post office has been provided by his daughter, Rachel.

Edward was born in Barrow in Furness in 1914 and married Mary Atkinson Parker in 1948 (registered at Ulverston). He was a painter and decorator by profession (see also 1939 register) but it was suspected that the paint he used was adversely affecting his health and the doctor advised that he give up the painting and decorating a seek another job. He saw that the post office at Thornton was for sale and decided to take a look.

Edward and his young family moved to Thornton from Grange over Sands on 20th March 1954 with three children, two with whooping cough. Thomas Spencer, who Edward bought the business off, died some there months later.

Mary's parents, Doris Lesley and Thomas A Parker moved to Thornton as well and lived at the post office / shop with Edward and family until they bought Cam Cottage, now Brown Robin Cottage in Cam Lane. Thomas had been a grocery shop manager so no doubt advice on running the shop could have been asked for or given. Doris was at one time a delivery driver delivering meat carcasses in a Bedford van.

The post office sold stamps, paid out pensions – no licences e.g. driving and no telegrams. Post was delivered from Skipton once a day (twice at Christmas) and had to be sorted and then delivered. Some of the out-lying farms collected their post but the Mount was difficult until post for there was routed via Earby. At least there was a road up

to the Mount whereas access from Thornton was across fields. This occurred when Edward was showing a relief postman the route and he couldn't cope with the hike to the Mount.

Newspapers were also delivered. Sometimes Rachel's grandma would deliver the letters with Rachel taking the papers, she was not old enough to deliver post.

Mary did the shop and dealt with the reps particularly the sweet sales rep and Edward ran the Post Office and did the PO accounts. Pension dockets had to be returned to give an indication of how much money would be required the following week for pension payments (sub post offices were limited to the amount of cash they could hold at any one time). Any extra for pensions (e.g. if someone had missed a few weeks and was due to collect several weeks' worth) had to be ordered.

In the 1970s they were visited by the police who gave them advice on extra security and a new security grill was put on the front door. They were told afterwards that police intelligence said that they were on a hit list for robbery. Could this have been the so called Black Panther??

The shop sold almost everything - Bread, confectionery, fruit and veg. cigs, newspapers, fireworks for bonfire night, sweets, Christmas sweets, crisps, e bright black leading, pop, ice cream, stationery, loose biscuits etc. Friday night was a busy night as customers collected weekly orders – occasionally queuing outside.

It was the only shop in the village and was a busy store before the advent of large supermarkets and cars. It was dubbed the gossip shop and was a community meeting place.

Pennine way hikers would use the shop to restock food supplies or buy plasters and bandages for blisters etc. and to refill water bottles.

Visitors to Queensmead British Legion rest home would walk along the old road, drink water cascading from Thornton Rock quarry and call at the post office to buy postcards to send home.

Rachel's brother, Simon, helped in the shop until he moved away and

Rachel also helped when she was old enough.

Friday night was often the night when Rachel's parents would relax over a drink at Thornton Manor after a busy day at the PO/shop and Rachel and her siblings would be looked after by their grandma and occasionally went to stay at grandma's in Cam Lane.

When Elslack Post Office closed some customers came to Thornton rather than going into Skipton.

When Edward retired in 1979 he missed his 25 years of service award by a few weeks but local residents presented a clock (see below) to him to mark his nearly 25 years serving the residents of Thornton. The business and PO were sold to the Whipps and Rachel went to work as live in housekeeper for Albert Hartley where she was for 26 years.



L to R Rachel Holmes, Ted Holmes, Tom Mason and Mrs Mary Homes

## VISITORS FROM THE UNITED STATES

Some 20 years ago the History Society hosted a visit by a coach party of Americans who were doing a genealogical tour of the UK. They were all descendants of Jonathan Fairbanks who emigrated from Kelbrook in 1633 to start a new life in the fledgling USA.

In July two more Fairbanks descendants visited our area, sisters Sharmin Fairbanks McKenny and Shawnee Korf. They were hosted by members Chris and Anne Howard who now live in the house thought to have been built by Jonathan Fairbank.

Bob Abel and Wendy Faulkner took the visitors and their hosts to visit the Old Grammar School as that would have been relatively new when the Fairbanks lived in this area. After a look around the building we discussed 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century local history.

We then decamped to Thornton Church where we were welcomed by church warden Pam Greenwood with Marjorie Lord.

Jonathan Fairbanks's uncle John was buried at the church in 1626 and there are other family connections to the church. The guests were shown round the church and the holy well and the visit was rounded off with delicious homemade cakes and tea.

To learn more about the Fairbanks family these two websites will be of interest.

<https://www.fairbankshistory.com/> and <https://fairbankshouse.org/>



Left to right—Anne Howard, Chris Howard, Pam Greenwood, Marjorie Lord, Sharmin Fairbanks McKenny, Shawnee Korf

*Life and Death in Prehistoric Craven*  
**Welbury Wilkinson Holgate and the Excavation of the Hare Hill Ring Cairn**  
*Keith Boughey*



Between 1932 and 1950, a Bronze Age ring cairn on Hare Hill, Thornton Moor, near Thornton-in-Craven, North Yorkshire (NGR: SD 92957 47686), was excavated by an amateur archaeologist, Welbury Wilkinson Holgate, assisted by his three sisters. Their excavation exposed the full structure of the cairn. The site has rising ground to the south, but commands extensive views of the broad valley of Earby and Thornton Becks below to the west and the hills of Airedale to the north. Conspicuous both on the ground and from aerial photography, it survives today as a circular flat-topped mound of stone and earth up to 0.7m in height and 28m in diameter, surrounded by a bank, with faint indications of a ditch between the bank and the mound.

Flint finds and radiocarbon dating of charcoal and cremated bone have revealed a long and complex history for the site, beginning in the Mesolithic. A shallow pit beneath the cairn containing ash, charcoal, worked flint and a ground Neolithic axehead revealed a date of 3957-3797 cal BC. The cairn contained the cremated remains of between 15-21 individuals, mostly children and adolescents, associated with Beakers, Food Vessels and Collared Urns, and returned radiocarbon dates spanning the Beaker-Early Bronze Age period from 2026-1895 cal BC to 1746-1620 cal BC. Finds also included a fine jet ear stud, a jet 'napkin' ring and two bone points or needles.]

Sadly, nothing was ever published. But what the author has now produced for Hare Hill is a comprehensive account backed up by a suite of secure radiocarbon dates. We also have clear evidence of trade in key materials such as flint and jet. The ring cairn occupies a key location straddling the Aire-Ribble gap, to the east providing access into and across the Pennines and beyond, and to the north and west to Cumbria and the Irish Sea coastline. The people who built and used the cairn on Hare Hill undoubtedly belong to this wider economic and cultural narrative. The final publication of the excavation will ensure that the hitherto unheralded work of the Holgates will at last make its long overdue contribution to our understanding of this story.

"...a cracking piece of work... (the author) deserves a medal for bringing it fully into the public domain." Clive Waddington (Director, Archaeological Research Services Ltd.)

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## PROGRAMME FOR NEXT QUARTER

September 20th The Life of Captain Cook before his epic voyages—Chris Helme

October 18th Dating and understanding your old photographs—Stephen Gill

November 15th Jacks War—Ian Lockwood

December No Meeting

## 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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