

# Earby Chronicles

Edition 96

Spring 2020

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



**This photograph of the Old Grammar School was taken around 2008 when it housed the Lead Mining Museum. The Museum closed in 2015 and the ore crusher and most of the collection are now in the Yorkshire Dales Museum in Hawes.**

## **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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## SOCIETY SILVER JUBILEE

Bob Abel

2020 sees a major milestone in the Society's history. It was in 1995 that the Society was founded.

### The Early Years

On a winter's night, early in 1995, a small band of enthusiasts gathered in the Community Centre lounge; Roy St Pierre, then the centre manager, was looking to increase the number of community groups using the centre and he proposed a Local History Society.

There were seven people at the meeting called to discuss the feasibility – Roy and his co-worker Alison Steadman, the late Jim Walker, Peter Dawson, Bev Parker and Bob Abel, with the late Dorothy Carthy, a founder member of the Barnoldswick History Society, in an advisory capacity.

Discussions went well and it was decided to give it a go and a further meeting was called at which a few more potential members attended.

The first committee meeting was held in March 1995 with Myself as Chairman, Margaret Brown as Secretary, Brian Williams as Treasurer, Bev Parker, Dorothy Wilkinson, Betty Smith, Joan Metcalfe, with Roy St Pierre and Alison Steadman from the Community Centre.

The name of the Society was decided upon and our patch was to be bounded by the borders of the ancient parish of Thornton in Craven.



In April that year our first project was being discussed, a town walking trail, and we were looking forward to a possible exhibition to coincide with the centenary of the completion of Victoria Road.

By June small grants from Pendle Council and Earby Parish Council boosted our funds to £300 and Dorothy was close to completing a full speaker programme for the coming year. Later in the year Trevor Tattersall had joined the committee and Bev Parker was planning the first edition of our newsletter, Earby Chronicles. The Earby and District Local History Society was now truly established. Links with other local societies began to be forged.

In 1996 a major project was being discussed. We wanted a copy of the Thornton parish registers, held at Northallerton Record Office, but this was going to cost £400, far more than we could afford. The Record Office suggested that we could borrow the micro film and a film reader and do a digital transcript. The project turned out to be lengthy and it was a good job we started to form links with the other societies in our area. The Society persuaded the Lancashire Family History Society at Colne to assist.

A later project was to be a full transcription of the monumental inscriptions in Earby's Wheatlands Cemetery in collaboration with the Lancashire Family History Society and Rolls Royce Family History Society.

Also in 1996 we collaborated with the Community Centre to celebrate the centenary of New Road School and Victoria Road. It was quite a big affair, Victoria Road was closed for the day to allow for a street market and street entertainment. The Society put on an exhibition of photographs of the school and its teachers and pupils. We collaborated with the newly- formed Earby Camera Club who helped with enlarging and printing the pictures in their new dark room. No computers and digital media in those days. Pennine Arts provided the frames for the pictures. We were trying in those early days to interrelate with other groups and organisations. Things were happening apace. We published our first book "New Road School Remembered" to coincide with the exhibition.

We organised an Oral History Training day at the North West Sound Archive at Clitheroe Castle. We wanted to capture peoples' memories of old Earby on cassette tape. We obtained a £400 grant from Pendle Council to buy a professional tape recorder. Pendle Council had money to spare in those days!

1996 ended with another major project being discussed. The Society was approached by Pendle Council's Heritage Department regarding their Built Heritage Project. We were asked if we would do a photographic survey of buildings and sites we considered to be important historically and to say why they had been chosen.



The first Christmas event held at the White Lion, Earby

## 75th ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

The early May Bank Holiday in 2020 is to be moved from 4th May to Friday 8th May to make the 75th Anniversary of VE Day a public holiday.

75 years ago in Earby, as reported in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times 11 May 1945, "Earby streets were gaily decorated with flags

**EARBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN EUROPE. THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND PARADE.**

His Majesty the King has expressed the wish that the Sunday following VE Day should be observed as a day of thanksgiving and prayer and His Majesty's Government have suggested that it would be appropriate for Local Authorities to organise parades and services of thanksgiving on that day.

At a meeting specially convened and held on Friday evening last to consider these suggestions, it was agreed that a United Open-air Service should be held on the Sunday following the announcement of VE Day.

All organisations connected with the national effort, including the Armed Forces, the full range of Civil Defence Services, the Police, the National Fire Service, the Fire Guard, the Women's Land Army, War Workers of all categories and the various Youth Organisations and Voluntary Societies are invited to take part in a parade which will assemble at the Cenotaph, Colne Road, and thence proceed via Colne Road, Skipton Road to the Recreation Ground in Earby, where the Service of Thanksgiving will be held. The time of assembly at the Cenotaph will be 2-30 in the afternoon and the Service of Thanksgiving will commence at 3-0 p.m.

It has been decided that should the weather be unfavourable the Service of Thanksgiving will be held in the Parish Church, Earby.

The marshals in charge of the parade will be Messrs. J. Barker and P. Higson.

W. HOLDEN,  
Clerk of the Council.

and bunting during the VE Day holidays. Flags fluttered from most of the public buildings and mills, and the Council Offices and Cenotaph were floodlit. Bonfires were lit by the residents, and there were intermittent explosions of fireworks throughout day and night.

Norman Carter's Sextet from Barnoldswick provided the music for a VE night 50-50 dance arranged by the Conservative Club Committee in the Albion Hall on Tuesday. Mr E Holmes was the MC and the proceeds were for the fund for Club Members in the Forces. "Free and easy" concerts were held in the crowded clubs on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

George Street and Riley Street Methodist Youth Groups organised a joint social in Riley Street School room on Tuesday evening and in George Street School room on Wednesday evening. On Tuesday music for dancing was provided by Messrs. T Bradley and J Holcroft in charge of a radiogram. After 11pm the Youth Groups enjoyed community singing, under the conductorship of Mr B Cross JP, round a bonfire in the Memorial Grounds.

The Vicar, Rev. J B Atkinson conducted a thanksgiving service in the Parish Church on Tuesday evening, when the collection was for

Christian Reconstruction, and he was the celebrant at Holy Communion on Wednesday morning. At a service in Mount Zion Baptist Church the Rev. George Metcalfe gave the address, and the names of the church members in the Forces were read out. A retiring collection was taken for the Red Cross.

The Methodist churches united for a service in Riley Street Church conducted by the Rev. A Wilson. All the services were attended by large congregations."

In another article reported in the newspaper "A large congregation attended a thanksgiving for victory service in Earby Parish Church on Sunday afternoon. The service was preceded by a procession which assembled at the Memorial Grounds and headed by Rev J B Atkinson Vicar of Earby, Rev. H C McKinley Vicar of Kelbrook, Rev. George Metcalfe of Mount Zion Baptist Church and Rev. A Wilson representing the Methodist Church, went by Colne Road and Skipton Road to the church. Owing to the rain, arrangements for an open air service on the Recreation Ground were cancelled.

The procession included members and officers of the churches in the district, members of the Urban District Council led by Chairman Mr A Oates, a contingent of Barnoldswick Squadron of the Air Training Corps, Earby Home Guard under Major J B Crowther, Earby St. John Ambulance Brigade in charge of Supt. J D Broughton, the Civil Defence Services led by Head Warden Mr R S Shaw JP, the Earby Boy Scout contingent led by Acting Troop Leader Walter Lund, the Girls Life Brigade with Captain G Pawson in charge, and the Girl Guides led by District Captain Mrs Nichols. Earby Police led by by Inspector W Swainson brought up the rear. Messrs. P Higson and J Barker marshalled the procession, in which the local Oddfellows and choirs also took part..."

## WATCH OUT THERE'S A POSTIE ABOUT

Many of us will remember the tales that the late Francis Forrest used to tell and the talks he gave about his travels. He was also known to put pen to paper. Some fifteen years ago Francis donated to



Photo from "Northern Life" Magazine 23 June 2016  
The Perils of Being a Postman

the Society Archives a copy of an article he had published in Yours Magazine.

"Forty-six years ago I applied for the job as a village postman in Earby, Lancashire, which boosted my income by a whole £1 a week!

I spent the first four years working in a tiny sorting office at the rear of Earby's Sub Post Office, with only four of us to cover a considerable area. One of these was Bill, a part-timer who did the rural bit and a nearby small town. He had his arduous walk well-organised, and for several years a black whippet dog - who Bill christened Blackie - used

to wait for him every morning and accompany him on his round. Blackie was a great one for catching rabbits and there was many a free rabbit pie. I can still see Bill now in his wellies, his pipe going full blast, and Blackie as ever following close to heel.

Joe, Eric and I did the rest of Earby on foot, rotating three walks and changing over each Monday. Between first and second deliveries we had to look sharp to deliver parcels, hopping on our bikes. We tied the heavy parcels round our necks with strong post office string - rather a hazardous practice, as you can imagine! At that time Earby had many thriving small shops which received lots of parcels every day. People ran catalogue clubs and I'm sure we weren't safe with all that

weight on board. Nevertheless I can't remember any of us having a serious crash or knocking anyone down, and the police always turned a blind eye to our perilous (and rather wobbly!) shenanigans, which made the job easier.

During the second delivery we did the collections from the town boxes. At one time these were sent to the main office by train but Dr Beeching put a stop to that by closing the line. From then on the mailbag was chained to the platform of a Ribble bus and collected by a postman with a duplicate key at Colne's main Post Office. We never dared miss that bus - there would have been hell to pay if we had.

Christmas was a very busy time for us, of course. No one posted their own cards by hand and the boxes used to take up to 20 minutes to empty, they were that jammed solid with Christmas cards. Each of us postmen had two students working for us. We sorted and packed their bags and they had the unenviable task of delivery but we always tried to send them out as light as possible.

There's many a memory of my years as a postman which brings a smile to my lips even now. I once asked a lady to take in a parcel for a neighbour, and she wasn't at all keen. "Oh, we don't speak," she declared, "she only ever bares her fangs."

One winter's day I pushed a letter through large a letterbox and it bounced right back at me. Peering through the aperture I saw there was a large icicle plum centre. A very frosty reception indeed at that home, I reflected.

Whizzing a letter through a box on a glass door, my heart sank along with the mail as I watched the letter land in a bucket of water left to water the plants. I rang the door bell, confessed, and the householder retrieved the wet letter. Worse still, I'd delivered the letter to the wrong address. It was meant for next door - a double clanger, you might say.

One day I met the district nurse who appeared to be suffering with her back. "How did you come by it?" I asked. "Gardening at the weekend?" "Oh no," she said, "believe it or not I was helping an old man on with his underpants when I pulled a bit too hard."

The Catholic priest was faced one day with a hefty surcharge fee of £5, his cry of, 'Oh my God,' was very appropriate in his case but he still had to cough up.

Animals, too, could have their moments. Calling at a farm one wet and windy day in winter, I spotted the poor old sheep dog looking very miserable as he braved the elements. Sat in the old dog's kennel was a big fat cat, looking very comfy indeed.

One of our rural postmen was going up a short farm track when he saw a rabbit with its head stuck in a hole in a dry stone wall. It appeared to be having trouble getting free. On his way back, he stopped to pull the bunny out of the hole, and to his amazement, he found a weasel attached to the rabbit. It had killed the creature and was trying to pull it through the wall.

One postie told us of being invited into a rather scruffy house for a brew, the owner of which had 13 cats. She made him a slice of toast, then swiped a cat off the table with the buttered side of the toast.

Early morning starts can also bring strange happenings. A colleague was on his way to work at 5.30am when he spotted a small boy of about three walking a dog. Apparently his mum had taken some sleeping pills, had left the key in the door and young McNabs decided on an early morning stroll with his pet. A good job our man knew where he lived!

There used to be a blacksmiths in Earby and once a postie in a hurry flung in a letter, hoping for the best. Unfortunately, it went into the forge and it was months before they found it had contained a £20 cheque.

I remember one morning having a struggle to attract the attention of an old man who was hard of hearing. "You didn't ring the bell," he said. "What's the use when you can't hear?" I said. "Ah well, when you ring the bell, the dog barks and I see its jaws moving, so I know there's someone at the door." And this was long before the days of hearing dogs for the deaf.

After four idyllic years at our small Sub Post Office, we were transferred to the bigger office at nearby Barnoldswick and things were never the same. Vans replaced bikes and Land Rovers took over the rural delivery.

I've been-retired now for 14 years but those 32 years and 240 days are still fresh in my memory - some bad, some good but none ever boring!

## IN LOVING MEMORY – THE HALLAMS PART 2

Stephanie Carter



**William & Margaret Hallam**

On 9 May 1865 William Hallam, (born in Skipton 1846) a land surveyor living in Liverpool married Margaret Halstead (widow), also living in Liverpool at St Jude's, St Pancras, Middlesex.

William's father James Hallam (discussed in Part 1) was described as "Gentleman" and Margaret's father was Thomas Smith Gentleman.

Margaret was born in 1840 at Newbridge, Great Marsden, to parents Thomas and Mary Smith and was baptised 21 February 1841 at Colne. In 1851 they were living at Little Marsden, Reedyford. Thomas Smith 47 landed proprietor born Manchester, Mary 38 born Marsden, Thomas 12, Margaret 10 and a servant

(I have not been able to find reference to her first marriage ? Halstead.)

In 1871 William and Margaret were living at Moorlands (Moreland)

Foulridge – William 25 landowner b Skipton, Margaret 30 annuitant b Marsden, Mary E H b Yorkshire, 7, Richard Thomas Roe Walton 3 b Bolton by Bowland, Frederick William 1 born Bolton by Bowland and two maids.

Moorlands (right) was described in 1874 as a pleasant mansion, built by William Hallam, a descendant of the Waltons of Marsden Hall. He owned all the moors behind the house, still known as Hallam Moor.



There are several references to William in local papers:

1875 April Election of Guardians of the Poor, Foulridge – William Hallam, Moorland, Foulridge

1877 Dec. To Colliery Proprietors, Wheelwrights and others – To be sold by tender several lots of timber now standing on the Marsden Hall estate. Tenders addressed to Wm Hallam, Moorlands near Colne

1878 June Meeting of Highway and Lighting Committee Colne. Application from Mr W Hallam of Moorlands Foulridge for permission to alter the mode of access into the cellar under Mr James Goth's shop in Market Street was granted.

1881 census Moorlands Foulridge

William 36 income from land b Skipton, Margaret 40, Mary Edith 7, Ann 5, Alice 2 months, a cook, housemaid and nurse

1883 Sept. Freehold Estates, Coal Mines and Minerals situate at Altham to be sold. A copy of the coal lease and face particulars of the rent roll may be inspected and plans and conditions of sale obtained on application to William Hallam Esq Moorlands, Foulridge, Colne

1884 May Mr Hallam, Moorlands, selected to represent Foulridge on

Burnley Union Attendance Committee (Local Education)

1889 August Grouse shooting. On Boulsworth Hill and Kelbrook Moor heavy and continuous rain rendered sport difficult and dangerous. Mr W Hallam, who has the shooting, accompanied by a few friends, visited the ground on Monday with little success. On Tuesday the party were more fortunate. The coveys are reported to be pretty numerous and some good bags so far have been reported. On Kelbrook Moor the birds, although not numerous, are said to be in good physical condition. Mr R. T.R W Hallam (William's son) and friends who have shot on the moors, have been fairly successful.

At some point the family left Moorlands and settled at Beckfoot near Kirkby Stephen (right)

1891 Beckfoot East Winton near Kirkby Stephen

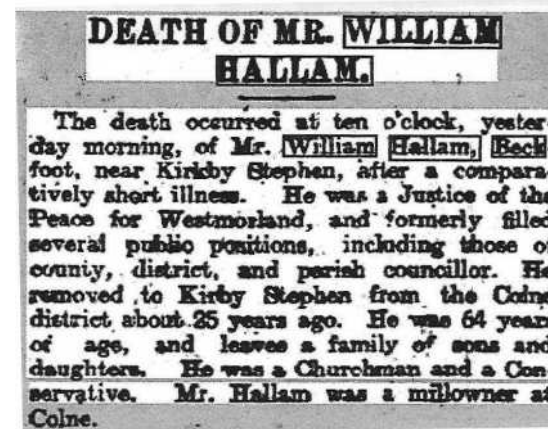
William Hallam 47 living on own means, b Skipton, Margaret 50 b Barrowford, Richard T R W 23 b Bolton by Bowland, Frederick W 21 b Bolton by Bowland, Ann 14 b Foulridge, Alice 10 b Foulridge, cook, housemaid and farm servant.



1898 March (Westmorland Gazette) – William Hallam of Beckfoot has been requested to stand as a Liberal candidate at the next parliamentary election. Mr Hallam is a Conservative but personally popular with all parties and it is thought would make a strong candidate. He is a large mine and property owner in the Colne district of Lancashire.

1899 Dec 19 at Beckfoot death of Margaret Hallam aged 59. Will be interred at Kelbrook near Colne 23 December

1910 23 August at Beckfoot Kirkby Stephen death of William Hallam aged 64, late of Moorlands Colne. He will be interred at Kelbrook near Colne, 27 August at 12.30. No flowers by request. The notice over leaf was in the Burnley Gazette 24 Aug. 1910 – I can find no evidence that William was a mill owner?



Acton Gazette – The funeral took place last week at Kelbrook of Mr William Hallam, a Westmorland magistrate, who inherited his property in a strange manner. His father, a landowner in the Colne and Nelson district, divided his estate into five portions, inscribed on five pieces of paper, and the children

drew them in turn to decide their inheritance.

1910 Dec. Westmorland JP's Will—Mr William Hallam of Beckfoot, Kirkby Stephen, formerly of Colne, JP for Westmorland, formerly a member of the County Council left an estate valued at £19,873 gross

1945 Dec. Monday afternoon Mr Frederick William Hallam was interred at Kelbrook Churchyard in the Colne district. The ceremony was conducted by Rev H C McKinley. Mr Hallam was of a quiet retiring disposition. He never sought any public office, and his main recreations were shooting, fishing, cycling and walking. He is survived by his two sisters, Ann and Alice, the latter of whom has been an invalid for many years. Frederick William Hallam, gentleman, left £19,873

1946 March 26 at Beckfoot aged 65 Alice youngest daughter of the late William Hallam. Funeral at St Mary's Kelbrook Friday at 12.30

1947 11 Dec. Ann Hallam died. She had retired living on private means and left £20,206. She is buried at Kelbrook.

William's son Richard T R Walton Hallam (b 1867) had married Eliza Kirkby Bateson Nussey at Headingley Leeds in September 1900. He died at Crow Nest Austwick, Settle aged 70 in 1938 and left £2282

Both William Hallam's brothers and one of his sons were called Richard Thomas Roe Walton Hallam – see connection in History of Marsden Hall (previous article).

## FLYING FREEHOLD

Ken Ranson



Colne Road



Water Street



Green End

Flying freehold is an English legal term to describe a freehold which overhangs or underlies another freehold. Common examples include a room situated above a shared passageway in a semi-detached house, or a balcony which extends over a neighboring property.

In the law of England and Wales, originally a freehold property included the ground, everything below it and everything above it. By the 13th century, the courts had begun to accept that one freehold could overhang or underlie another. This concept was settled by law in the 16th century.

There is a counterpart situation called a creeping freehold where similar issues arise. A creeping freehold is where, for example a basement or cellar belonging to one freehold underlies a different freehold at ground level. Works may be impossible without the consent of the freeholder above if any works could affect it, or need access to it.

A problem concerning flying freehold arose locally a couple of years ago at Nutter Cote, cottages on the road to Thornton from Barnoldswick. The owner of the end cottage demolished his building whilst the owner of the cottage next door was away on holiday.

The problem here was that not only was the building a Grade 11 listed building but next door's dining room projected into the building next door (hence a flying freehold) which was being demolished.



## DARING EARBY SOLDIER – TWICE ESCAPED FROM NAZIS May 1945

An incredible series of adventures befell Pte. Horace Rawlinson of Green End Avenue, Earby, after his capture at Gazala until his release by an American armoured unit. In the mountains in Italy and in camps in Germany he watched and waited with his comrades for the Allied advance that would liberate him, often able to see aircraft on bombing missions, or flashes from our artillery.

Pte. Rawlinson was imprisoned at Khittie, in the same camp as Bill Bowes, the Yorkshire and England cricketer, until October 2nd 1943. Treatment by the Italians, he told a Times reporter, was brutal until about the time we occupied Tripoli. Everything was filthy, and their clothing was infested with lice. When it was obvious that Italy was finished, treatment improved tremendously, and after the Armistice they woke up to find the guards had vanished. Their place was taken by Germans.

In the face of our advance, the prisoners were taken north by train. Pte. Rawlinson and five others made a bid for freedom, slipping on to



the buffers and dropping off on to the track. They had no kit, and they tried to make their way to the Allied lines, living as they went entirely on bread and water. The front became static, and it was not possible to get through, so the party took to a fantastic existence in the hills. "We lived like wolves" Pte. Rawlinson said, "up in the hills in the day-time, but coming down to raid the villages at night, and then scurrying back to the lair before dawn".

Living in a disused shack, they procured civilian clothes, and picking up the language they became more and more bold in approaching villagers and asking for food. Many peasants were willing to help but escaped prisoners had prices on their heads, and there were the Fascist informers watching strangers in the village, as well as German soldiers disguised as prisoners. Food was scarce and there was no coffee, but it was often possible to get a meal by walking into a house and simply insisting. They became good thieves too, and although the peasants would sit up all night to guard their stock, they occasionally ate eggs, poultry and mutton. Two brothers became their friends. They swore they would rather be killed than "sell" the prisoners to the Germans, although they were miserably poor. These men, however, were the biggest thieves on earth they produced such gifts as a leg of mutton.

An Italian ex-officer, probably with an eye to Allied advance, supplied boots and money, and a village priest too would regularly bring money and would entertain Englishmen at his home. All this went on under the noses of the Germans. From their camp, our men would watch German transport movements wondering "Is this the retreat? Are the Allies coming?" Villagers who were feeding them would tell them to go quickly because there were Fascists about, and they had to decide if it was the truth, or a ruse to get rid of them. They never paid for food but they did buy milk.

#### Recaptured by Germans

They had been at large eight months, and were still awaiting the Allied armies, when they were awakened at one o'clock in the morning to

find themselves surrounded by a dozen Germans who had been led by an informer. In a prison camp afterwards they were told by a guard that the Germans had paid 1,800 lira and half a bag of flour for each of them.

A second escape came in June last year, when Pte. Rawlinson was being marched still further north. The prisoners were guarded by Germans with Alsatian dogs on the alert for anyone trying to break the ranks. They marched five abreast, and as darkness fell they crowded out to the walls of the narrow lane, giving the guard less freedom of movement. Feeling the wall as he went forward, Pte. Rawlinson found a suitable place, jumped quickly over and dashed away to the hills, and joined up with others who had done the same.

As they moved south they could see from the mountains gun-fire round the Anzio beachhead. They could follow the sounds of fighting as the Free French advanced, but on July 20th they were surprised and taken by a German mountain patrol, and subsequently transported to Germany. In camp near Magdeburg, Pte. Rawlinson found conditions bad. Food was chiefly potatoes and watery stew, with a loaf of bread to nine men. The weekly meat ration was so small that they cut for it with cards and let the winner take the lot. The work was varied – re-opening 50 year old graves to bury German soldiers who were dying at a tremendous rate in a nearby hospital; clearing bomb damage in Magdeburg; erecting road blocks; and working 12 hours a day in a sugar beet factory. They saw American air raids on Magdeburg and night attacks on railway junctions, while Polish guards kept them informed about the war news. "If we were badly treated, the Russians were even worse off" Pte. Rawlinson declared. Russian women and girls were compelled to do heavy work on the railway tracks, and heavy labouring and were beaten with whips on the slightest pretext. Pte Rawlinson had high praise for the work of the Red Cross. But for the parcels they sent, thousands more would have died, he said. When after the invasion parcels ceased to get through, the Germans said it was due to the transport shortage.

After the Germans had been unable to evacuate the camp through being outflanked, the white flag was hoisted. The Americans entered soon after and gave the liberated men magnificent treatment.

## **EARBY PENSIONERS' REST CENTRE- PART 1**

Stephanie Carter

Old age pensioners turned up in force at a public meeting in the George Street Methodist School on 10th July 1948 where it was decided to form an Earby branch of the Old Age Pensioners' Association. Arrangements for the meeting had been made through Earby Urban District Council and the chairman of the Council, W Firth, presided. The meeting was addressed by officials from the North East Lancashire Federation who explained the procedure followed in forming a branch. Members of the Barnoldswick branch offered guidance.

The following were elected to form a committee: Mrs Ibbetson, Mrs M E Mitchell, Mr H W Waterworth (elected secretary), Mr B W Blades, Mr W C Burrows, Mr A Oates (elected chairman), and Mr J Lofthouse (elected treasurer).

By the end of July a further meeting held at the Ambulance Hall was informed that the new organisation had already over 100 members. The committee secured the use of the Council Chamber for further deliberations and every organisation in the town was called on for their support. By August the funds had reached £20. The committee began to search for a suitable site for a Rest Centre.

By July 1951 negotiations between the Earby OAP Association and the trustees of the Earby Christian Science Church in Linden Road with the object of the Pensioners purchasing the building to turn into a Rest Centre were almost complete.

The Earby and Kelbrook branch of the Association had made rapid progress since it was formed three years previously and the membership stood at 350, about half of the pensioners in the area. Although



there was some feeling that the building and adjoining land was not central, it was pointed out that it was the Earby and Kelbrook branch and therefore central and also near a good bus route.

The building comprised one large hall with a seating capacity of about 275 people. It had a large vestibule, reading room and cloakrooms. It was well constructed, the outer walls being of brick up to floor level and above there was timber framing covered on the outside with expanded metal. The roof was boarded all over and covered with red asbestos tiles. The interior was lined with asbestos sheets. Lighting was by electricity and heating by steam.

(The dangers of asbestos were obviously at this time not to the forefront).

In August 1951 Earby Old Age Pensioners at their annual meeting in George Street Schoolroom decided unanimously that the committee should increase negotiations for the purchase of the building for their headquarters. This decision was made after Mr Waterworth had given information to the gathered Association that the Christian Science Church had been offered for sale to the Earby OAP Association but that a decision had to be given within the month. The Christian Science Church had agreed not to put the proposed sale of the building on the open market until the decision was reached. The price of the property was in the region of £2,000. The Association building fund stood at £610 and Mr Waterworth had received offers of assistance from several mills and workshops in the town. Recent donations had increased the fund to £700.

**NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSIONS ASSOCIATION**  
 Earby and Kelbrook Branch  
**President: H. WALTON, Esq.**

The above wish to announce with pleasure  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1951**  
 Opening Day - Aged People's Rest Centre  
 Linden Road, Earby at 2-30 p.m.

<b>Opener—Rest Centre</b> <b>E. Melling, Esq., Blackburn</b> General Sec. N.F.O.A.P.A.	<b>Opener—Sale of Work</b> <b>Coun. H. Hogarth, Esq.</b> President Barnoldswick O.A.P.A.
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Many distinguished guests and representatives of all local religious bodies, organisations, workshops, Clubs, mills and tradespeople will attend a tea to be held in the Weavers Institute at 4-30 p.m. in honour of this occasion.

**APPRECIATIONS**

SPEACHES by—

G. B. Drayson, M.P.,  
 P. Carradice, C.C. (West Riding County Council),  
 Councillor P. Higson, Earby U.D.C.,  
 H. Halstead, Clerk to Earby U.D.C.,  
 R. Ives, Hon. Sec. N.E.L.A.C.O.A.P.A.

Proposed vote of thanks :  
 H. Walton, President Earby O.A.P.A.

Seconded by :  
 E. Whitham, Chairman Earby O.A.P.A.

In December 1951 newspaper headlines heralded "Earby Pensioners' Rest Centre Opened by National Secretary – Crowds Packed New Rooms to Witness Ceremony". The official opening of the new centre, formerly the Christian Science Church, Linden Road, Earby was performed by Mr E Melling, General Secretary of the National Federation of Old Aged Pensioners Associations, in the presence of Mr G H Drayson, M.P., and the Earby President Mr H Walton, together with Mr H Hogarth, president of the Barnoldswick Branch, Mr P Higson Chairman of Earby UDC, County Councillor Mr P Carradice and other

2-30 p.m. **OPENING CEREMONY**

H. WALTON Esq., will introduce the opener  
**E. MELLING, Esq., Blackburn, N.F.O.A.P.A. General Sec.**

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3-0 p.m. **SALE OF WORK**

**Opener: Coun. H. HOGARTH, Esq., Barnoldswick.**

**Stall Holders**

Drapery—Earby Ladies : Mrs. Stanworth, Mrs. Ratcliffe, Miss Ellis.

Cake—Kelbrook Ladies : Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Hopkinson, Mrs. Ibbetson, Mrs. Pickles and Friends.

Handkerchief—Earby Ladies : Mrs. Lodge, Mrs. Aldridge, Mrs. Tomlinson and Friends.

Pound—Earby Ladies : Mrs. Lodge, Mrs. Aldridge, Mrs. Tomlinson and Friends.

Also Novelty Attractions, Toys, etc.

Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Stanworth      Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. L. Lodge

Refreshments at reasonable charges.

**ADMISSION FREE**

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During the evening **A CONCERT**  
 will be held in the **Weavers' Institute**  
 Chairman: E. Whitham, Esq. Opener: H. W. Waterworth, Esq.

**The "Gay Gardenias" Concert Party**

Admission: **Silver Collection**      To commence 7-30 p.m.

officials. Rev. H C McKinley of Kelbrook said a short prayer of dedication. The committee and members were highly praised by all the speakers for their hard work in establishing the organisation and setting up the Centre. A sale of work was followed in the evening by a concert organised by the Branch in the Weavers Institute. Entertainment was provided by the Gay Gardenias concert party and a total of £217 was added to the building fund.

## IT'S THE END OF AN ERA



THE last official function to be held at the "old" Earby and Kelbrook Senior Citizens' Welfare Association headquarters in Linden Road was by no means a sad occasion.

For although Saturday's coffee afternoon marked the end of an era, those pensioners who were present were not looking back to the past but to the future, and to the day when they move into their new headquarters.

That day is expected to

arrive towards the end of next month, but before then the pensioners have some serious fund raising to do.

Approximately £5,000 is still needed to demolish the old building before a car park can be built in front of the new premises.

Saturday's event helped to raise £260, money which will be used to help equip the new kitchen.

The event was opened by Mr and Mrs Martin Foster in recognition of

their generous contribution towards the fund raising. Mrs Foster was presented with a beautiful basket of flowers by Association President Mrs Margaret Pepper.

In his opening speech Mr Foster told how he had been brought to the Linden Road centre by his mother when he was a young lad and in closing paid tribute to the late Mr George Preston.

Said association chair-

man Coun. James Dickson this week: "The committee worked extremely hard to make this last event in the old headquarters a great success and with everyone else pitching in with help it was a very good afternoon."

Our picture shows Mr and Mrs Martin Foster, members of the committee and others who were present at Saturday's coffee afternoon. Photo: Anthony Braithwaite.

## POVERTY IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY

In the early 19th century poverty was widespread in East Lancashire and parts of the West Riding. There was a parish based system for poor relief. Prior to the 1834 Poor Law Act when support was given to the poor by the provision of workhouses, various aid committees in places such as London and York distributed grants of money raised from subscriptions which went towards alleviating the problem in needy parishes.

In May 1826 the York Herald reported on a meeting of the committee who managed the York subscriptions in aiding the most distressed districts. Money raised in the city and its surrounding areas was applied to the alleviation of the suffering of poverty and a donation of £100 had been added by the London committee. To meet the urgent needs of the fund, the York committee again contacted the London committee and to add weight to their request, they attached a letter from the Rev. W A Wasney of Fence End, Thornton-in-Craven written to Rev. D R Currer 16 May 1826:

"The subject of this letter will I trust, be a sufficient apology for troubling you with it. I understand there is a subscription at York for the relief of the distressed manufacturers. May I therefore request you will have the goodness to state the cases of Thornton and Barnoldswick to the acting committee. I believe I do not exaggerate in saying they are among the worst, perhaps the worst, in Craven, considering the means of relief they have within themselves. In both parishes there are 4,700 inhabitants, of whom upwards of 3,500 are unemployed. There are not more than two manufacturers in both parishes, and the general population consists of weavers and of small farmers, who nearly make their rents by weaving; many of whom are at present in a very desperate state, and some have sold part of their stock to pay the poor assessments.

In Barnoldswick there are at present many cases of typhus fever, and lately a woman was brought to bed there, who for nearly 30 hours was without nourishment except a cup of tea and a morsel of bread, and had not Mr Barrow the clergyman fortunately called in, might have continued much longer in that state.

At Earby, in the parish of Thornton, a few weeks ago, a cow died in calving; the carcass was thrown upon the dunghill: before the next morning it was taken away by the hungry inhabitants – one family suffered a good deal, either from eating too great a quantity of it, or from the noxious quality of the food".

## NUMBER SEVEN

Bob Abel

The number seven has played a significant role in society, culture and religion, from time immemorial.

Wikipedia says that "It has had significance in almost every major religion. In the Old Testament the world was created in six days and God rested on the seventh, creating the basis of the seven-day-week we use to this day. In the New Testament the number seven symbolizes the unity of the four corners of the Earth with the Holy Trinity. The number seven is also featured in the Book of Revelation (seven churches, seven angels, seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven stars). The Koran speaks of seven heavens and Muslim pilgrims walk around the Kaaba in Mecca (Islam's most sacred site) seven times. In Hinduism there are seven higher worlds and seven underworlds, and in Buddhism the new born Buddha rises and takes seven steps."

Relating to the bible, seven is the number of completeness and perfection (both physical and spiritual).

From folklore, the seventh son of a seventh son is supposedly endowed with special powers.

We have an example of the use of number seven in the will of Nicholas Stowell who died in 1602. Nicholas seems to have been a Yorkshire man with family connections in Skipton, Thornton in Craven and Marton .

Stowell was admitted to St John's College, Cambridge in 1564 gaining his BA in 1568/7 and his MA in 1571. His first appointment in the church was in 1574 at Richmond, Yorkshire, and in 1581 he was appointed as Rector at Blisland near Bodmin in Cornwall. In 1591 he was given the additional rectorship of Lanreath also in Cornwall.

He died in 1602 and the following is extracted from his will -

"All such money as my friends and kinsfolk in Yorkshire do owe to me

I do forgive and acquit."

"I give and bequeath to seven parishes, that is Blisland, Lauretho (Lanreath?), Bodmin and East Lowe in Cornwall, Thornton, Skipton and Marton in Craven in Yorkshire, seven score pounds, equally to be divided, and to be lent, at the discretion of the parson or vicar and the churchwardens of each of the parishes aforesaid to twenty, fifteen or seven of the poorest householders in each parish, freely so.

That they give surety to repay it every Good Friday, and so to continue from year to year for ever as Stowells Stock for the poor."

The number seven obviously had some significance for Stowell. As he is a clergyman one can only speculate that he is because number seven is often considered as God's number or a holy number.

The will mentions his siblings, Emerie, Elizabeth, Marmaduke and Henry and various cousins.

I have tried, as yet without success, to find a direct family link for Nicholas Stowell with the Craven area of Yorkshire. There are Stowells mentioned in Skipton and Thornton Parish registers but most of these are a century or more later. A John Stowell married Jane Ellis at Skipton in 1613 and a Stephen Stowell married Margaret Wilkinson at Thornton in Craven in 1774.

## EARBY MARCH 1897

**COMIC CARNIVAL.**—On the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. a comic carnival was held in the Albion Hall, under the auspices of the Earby Football Club. Several talented artistes took part, including Fred A. A. Pullan, prize alto vocalist and lady impersonator; Mr Harry Stocker, musical negro performer, who also gave selections on the Japanese violin, dulcimer, and fairy bells. Madame Stocker also rendered several songs in good style. Professor Langley, ventriloquist, elocutionist, and comedian, was much appreciated in his wonderful performances. The favourite of the evening was Mr Tom Waddington, of Keighley, described as Yorkshire's greatest humorist, who was encored every time he appeared before the audience. The accompanist was Mr T. Hartley, of Barnoldswick, who also gave a piano solo with much taste.

## **JANUARY 2020 MEETING**

### **The History of Blackpool by Kath Dowthwaite**

History Society member Kath was born and raised in Blackpool and at the beginning of her talk on the history of her home town she described herself as a “Sandgown ‘un” and a lifelong supporter of Blackpool FC .

We learnt about the development of the town from a small hamlet beside a black pool to the popular seaside resort it became.

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century it was fashionable for the wealthier members of society to visit the seaside as it was believed that sea bathing could cure diseases. Blackpool began to be developed, a new road was built and regular coach services began to visit but it wasn't until the railway arrived in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century that the town really started to grow as a tourist destination.

Kath took us through the history of all the familiar buildings and features of Blackpool, the Tower, the promenades, piers, gardens, theatres, trams and the Illuminations. It was a very interesting presentation which brought back many memories for the audience.

Wendy Faulkner

### **LOCAL WW2 PRISONERS OF WAR**

Research from Barnoldswick and Earby Times by Stephanie Carter

In May 1940 29 year old Private James Grimshaw of Colne Road, Earby was officially reported missing following the withdrawal from Norway, where he went with the British Expeditionary Force. At the age of 19 he had joined the Yorkshire Light Infantry and served in the regiment for seven years. At the end of that he was employed by the postal service in Barnoldswick but was called up on the outbreak of war. In June, however, news was received that Pte. Grimshaw was a prisoner in Germany. In a letter to his wife he stated that he was “quite well and unhurt”.

January 1941 brought news that Second Lieutenant John Reynolds of Earby was a prisoner of war. In June, after being reported missing, presumed dead, it was stated by the London Red Cross Society that he was a prisoner of war. The Society had received the news from the Australian Red Cross.

According to an announcement from a German wireless station in June 1942, Private Horace Rawlinson of Green End Avenue, who had been serving with the Green Howards in the Middle East, was a prisoner of war. His story is told in a separate article.

Gratifying news that her son Serg. Pilot Derryck R F Wellock, aged 22, had been found and was a prisoner of war in Germany was received by his mother Mrs Dixon in June 1942. She had received a communication in April informing her that her son was missing, presumed lost. Derryck Wellock joined the Royal Air Force as a volunteer in March 1940.

In May 1943 news was received by the wife of Harry H Ridge, of Vicarage Road, Kelbrook, that her husband was a prisoner of war. The news which was communicated to Mrs Ridge by the Ministry of Information was received in a Japanese wireless report. It came after 15 months uncertainty as to his whereabouts. In June welcome information reached the mother of William Craig of Esmond Street, Earby that her son for the past 18 months had been posted as missing and presumed to be a prisoner of war in the hands of the Nazis, had been able to return to his unit. According to the communication other comrades had returned with him; the assumption being that they had escaped from enemy territory and succeeded in making their way back to their regiment.

After having been a prisoner in Italian hands for 12 months, Pte. Jack Hayhurst R.A.M.C. whose home is in John Street, Earby was repatriated in August 1943. He was captured in Libya in June 1942 and reached Italy last December. Pte. Hayhurst said that prisoners in Italy would be seriously short of food were it not for the magnificent service of the Red Cross. The weekly parcels saved hundreds of lives. He

had worked a fortnight as a hospital orderly, but refused to do farm work, being determined not to help the Italians. He had joined the army as a volunteer in September 1939.

In June 1943 notification was received through the Red Cross that Sapper Arnold Peckover, of Evergreen Cottage, Salterforth, was a prisoner of war. He had been interned in Malaya. He had been in the Royal Engineers since 1937 and had been reported missing in March 1942.

In July 1943 after being reported missing over 18 months ago at the fall of Singapore, news of the whereabouts of Private Dick Farnworth, a popular Earby lad, was received by his wife and mother in Longroyd Road, Earby. A post card, in his own hand, brought the good news that he was a prisoner in Japanese hands; that he was being treated well and was in the best of health. He had joined up in October 1941 and soon after was serving with his regiment overseas. In September 1945 the first message to reach Earby from a released prisoner of war in the Far East was received by Mrs Farnworth of Kenilworth Drive, Earby. She had a telegram from her husband Pte. Richard Farnworth, stating that he was safe in Bombay, India and hoping to be home soon. The last communication Mrs Farnworth had had from her husband was a prisoner-of-war card which had been sent in May 1944 and was received in December. Pte. Farnworth was in the Reconnaissance Corps and had been taken prisoner in July 1943 in Singapore. He had been imprisoned at No 2 Camp, Thailand. A native of Earby, he was formerly employed by Mr Albert Hartley as a gardener at Grange Hill.

In October 1945 Pte. Richard Farnworth was home after being a prisoner in Japanese hands since the fall of Singapore in February 1942. As a prisoner he had helped build new docks in Bangkok, worked on the erection of pill boxes, gun positions and an airport, and also served on the staff of a base hospital camp. For 15 months Pte. Farnworth worked on the notorious Burma railway scheme. Each batch of 120 men was ordered to complete 1.7 cubic metres of the embankment per week and no reduction was made in the task on account of illness. The same amount of work had to be produced even if 20 men

were incapacitated. Often the prisoners had to work day and night. Those in quarries had a particularly hard time, being compelled to work even when seriously ill. Sick men were regarded as an encumbrance by the Japs who punished them by halving their rations, but other prisoners gave them their own food to keep them alive. Pte. Farnworth said the prisoners had to live like the natives, cooking rice in the Siamese fashion and eating dry vegetables, salted fish and stew. When liberated he was flown from Bangkok to Rangoon, proceeding home by sea on the "Worcestershire".

A travel-stained postcard received in August 1943 ended many months of anxiety for Mr & Mrs R S Fell of Skipton Road, Earby, whose only son A.C.I Jack Fell was posted missing after the Japanese occupation of Malaya in January 1942. The card, written by Aircraftsman Fell announced that he was a prisoner of war in Japanese hands and that he was "safe and in good spirits". . This was the first communication the parents had had apart from the official message a year and five months ago to the effect that their son "was last seen in Java on February 18th 1942". 26 years of age, Aircraftsman Fell joined the RAF three years ago and was drafted to the Middle East in January 1941.

In September 1945 at Columbo, Ceylon and hoping to be home soon was ACI John Wilson Fell who had been taken prisoner in Java. He had eluded the Germans when they invaded Crete, but soon after going to the Far East fell into Japanese hands. His parents have received six postcards, four of which arrived by the same post just before VJ Day.

ACI Fell returned to Earby in September 1945. In common with other prisoners of the Japanese he had suffered many privations, including lack of food and clothing, but he wished to forget his experiences and begin life afresh, happy in the knowledge that he had returned home. He was formerly employed in his father's corn business in Barnoldswick.

## THE SOCIETY

Meets at the Community Centre, New Road, EARBY on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. (except June, July and August)

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Local member £10.00

UK member £12.00

Overseas member £15.00

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

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## PROGRAMME FOR NEXT QUARTER

April 21st My work as a local history detective, Steve Halliwell

May 19th Side-tracked by Sem, how researching one subject can  
Sometimes lead to another and can be a fascinating  
Distraction, Denise North

June, July, August 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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