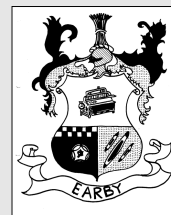


# Earby Chronicles

Edition 35

WINTER 2004



## SOCIETY AIMS:

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

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**£1.50**

Members of  
Society free

## 10 YEARS ON

Believe it or not (I can hardly believe it myself), the society will be celebrating its 10th year of existence in 2005. We have come a long way since that cold January evening in 1995 when 7 people met at the Community Centre to discuss the formation of a History Society in Earby. Those were the late Jim Walker, Peter Dawson, Beverley Parker and Bob Abel. The community centre were represented by Roy St Pierre and Alison Spencer and Dorothy Carthy, a stalwart of Barnoldswick History Society, was there as an advisor. It was decided that it would be worth proceeding and that more publicity was required for the next meeting and then as they say the rest is History.

Remarkably, membership has grown every year since that first meeting to stand currently at 131. Local history is as popular as ever and for many and varied reasons not least as an antidote to today's uncertain times.

One thing that helps bind the society together is our magazine "the Earby Chronicles" and people all over the country and the world look forward to its arrival every quarter.

It is gratifying to see so many people attend meetings and as well as enjoying the talks and appreciating the social side of the evenings.

The society is also being recognised throughout the local history circuit through organising history events and courses and exhibiting at local history events.

Hopefully we can organise an event in 2005 to celebrate the achievement of this 10 year landmark and look forward to the Society going from strength to strength into the future.

Bob Abel

## Recent talks & features

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**EARBY : ITS LOCATION AND LANDMARKS**

Transcription of an article written by J.H.Hartley in 1926

It is a matter of surprise to Earby people who venture abroad in pursuit of business or in quest of pleasure to find how many people are unaware of the existence of such a place. "Where is it?" such uninformed people ask; and after you have given all the necessary mental guidance they ask in a still more bewildered state of mind: "How do you spell it?" The reply is usually given with marked emphasis - E A R B Y.

It is almost certain that the place derives its name from the stream, or beck, which runs through the older portion of the village, and which rises on "Wentcliffe Moor," and which is also known as "Wentcliffe Beck." The name "Eure" was also given to the stream, and "by," signifying a township or hamlet, was added. The stream is joined by another from the village of Kelbrook, on the lower reaches of the valley, and forms one of the principal tributaries of the Aire, into which it is merged between Broughton and Skipton. There are also many smaller becks, which run into the main stream.

If the name of the village is a singular one there is a corresponding advantage, because there is no possibility of confusion, and it is unnecessary to add the appendage- "in Craven"-which serves to distinguish its mother parish of Thornton-in-Craven from other places of the same preliminary designation.

Geographically our village is situated in a hollow of the Pennine Chain, and it nestles under the shadow of one of the old beacon heights of Craven-Pinhaw Pike, which rises gradually from the village in an easterly direction to a height of 1,274 feet. The range of hills from Pinhaw is continued on the eastern side of the valley towards Colne, in Lancashire, and Bleara Moor and Kelbrook Moor are noteworthy eminences rising to 1,176 feet. On the western side there is a lower range of hills in the direction of Barnoldswick, which is crowned by White Moor leading up to "The Weets" hill, which is 1,250 feet high. The roads leading into the township all descend, and the view from every point of the compass is a pleasing one.

Perhaps the view from the hills on the western side is the most impressive, especially when the rays of the setting sun are cast upon the dwelling houses and the higher range of hills above the village, but on the other hand the view from the eastern side of the Bowland hills, with the Pennine giants on their right, is a sight never to be forgotten. Every native and dweller in our village cannot restrain feelings of pride that his lot has been cast in such a desirable habitation.

Our village is distinctly unfortunate regarding its history as a township, as it is only since it became an urban district that it acquired that honour, and it has only recently been made into an ecclesiastical parish. Its former status was that of a hamlet or village in the ancient and extensive parish of Thornton-in-Craven, which, in addition to Thornton and Earby, included Kelbrook and Harden, reaching to the border of the

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neighbouring county of Lancashire.

There are, however, certain historical associations which should not be overlooked. Only a few miles distant, at the foot of Pinhaw, there are the ruins of the old Roman fort at Elslack, known as Burwen Castle. The Roman road leading to the fort passed through the Thornton parish behind the village of Thornton, which connected Elslack with Ribchester and Leeds. A few miles in the opposite direction was the Roman fort "Colunio," with a road leading up White Moor to join the road at Brogden leading to Thornton.

It quickens our historical imagination to call to mind the fact that the Roman Legions marched over the hills and through the valleys that we know so well, and some impress must have been made upon the social life of that period by their feats of arms and colonising practices.

Taking a leap down the centuries, it may be noted that there was a monastic settlement two miles distant at Barnoldswick prior to the establishment and erection of Kirkstall Abbey, the founders of which migrated to a more desirable situation. The old Norman Church of St. Mary-le-Gill, which is quite near to the western border of the Earby township and the parish of Thornton-in-Craven, is a reminder of associations with a famous period in English history. The Cromwellian Crusade touched the environs of our village, for it is one of the most cherished traditions of the countryside that the valiant Parliamentary Defender marched his Ironsides over the hills around Pinhaw.

During many a stirring episode in the gallant defence of our homeland the Beacon fires on Pinhaw hill sent forth their lurid gleam, while the watchers constantly maintained their lonely vigil upon the windswept heights.

During a fierce snowstorm one of the Watchers perished on the moors, and his resting place is marked by a stone which may yet be seen not far from the road over the crest of the hill.

It is quite certain that the existence of Earby as a distinct community was an established fact in the Elizabethan age, that golden period of England's advancement and prosperity. There are many evidences which justify such a conclusion, and it is sufficient to refer to the buildings that remain which are characteristic of the architecture of that age. There is the old village inn, "The White Lion," which stood on the fringe of the old village green, and which bears the following inscription:-

IOSHVA : IANE  
WINDLE: IVNE 29  
R.B. 1681 I.B.

There is a substantial farmhouse abutting on Water Street, always known as "Wadd Fowd," "Wadd" evidently being an abridgment of Waddington.

The best monument of that age is the Old Grammar School, which in its earliest days was

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designated "Robert Windle's Free School" so named from the benefactor who made provision for the education of the village.

Probably much of the land in the township at that time was common land, but a large proportion had been brought into cultivation, which is evident from the existence of the old English lanes, with hedges and ditches dividing the pastures and the meadows.

An imaginative reconstruction of the Earby part of the old township as it existed in the 17th century would be somewhat as follows:

The main entrance into the village was from the mountainous road leading from Skipton to Colne which, as now, was split into two sections, one leading down "Stoneybank," and the other to Mill Brow, where the village corn mill was situated.

A road from Thornton passed by Booth Bridge, up Ober, past Batty House Farm to the Mill Brow Road.

Coming down to the bottom of the village the road crossed the stream at a bridge where stands an old blacksmith's shop, and passed down the right side of the stream to Ireland Bridge.

The centre portion of the village was triangular in shape, the road from Ireland Bridge leading up Aspen Lane to the Green End, and down the other side of the hill past the White Lion Inn to the Bull Ring, the road being called "The Cattle Gate." This name still survives in an abridged form - "Cat-Gate."

From the Mill Brow Road the old road to Colne passed along the Banks near to Moor Hall Farm, through the upper part of Kelbrook. From the bottom of the village there was also a road known as "The Causeway," generally called "T'Causer," which led to the Grammar School and round to the Lane Ends.

The majority of the dwelling houses were on the higher ground known as "T'top o't town," and in Stoneybank Lane. The valley is known to have been well wooded, which is evidenced by such names as "Barnwood," "The Grove," "Mount Pleasant Plantation," and Wentcliffe Plantation.

In addition to the farmhouses previously referred to, the following appear on the old ordnance maps - Higher Verjuice Bank, Bleara Side, Coolham, Bawhead, Birch Hall, Marl Field, Hill Top, White House and Green End.

In the days of "Merrie England" our village was undoubtedly a peaceful, self-contained agricultural community, with a spacious green for sport and festivity, and an annual feast which was held on the Sunday nearest the 10th of July. That was the glory and crown of the year.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead  
Who never to himself hath said:  
'This is my own, my native land!'"

Transcribed from the Craven Herald August 27th 1926 by John Turner. From a collection of newspaper cuttings made by the author, kindly loaned by Mrs.E. Wilkinson.

**LIFE AT FIDDLING CLOUGH IN THE 1920'S AND 30'S**

**By Stephanie Carter**

In 1921 Amos Holden and his family moved from Lothersdale to manage Fiddling Clough for Tom Jacques of Thornton Hall. In fact the farm was owned by Sir Amos Nelson, rented by Mr Jacques and managed by Amos Holden. Tom Jacques was a good and generous man, a bachelor, who walked to the Clough each Sunday, in light coloured boots and a collar and tie. He would look round the stock, pay Amos his wage and spend a little time with Rachel in the house, often taking Bluebird toffees for the children. Cattle and sheep were walked to and from Thomton Hall and Fiddling Clough up Wysick. Originally from the Hubberholme area, when Tom Jacques left Thomton, he returned to manage the pub at Cray.

Amos and Rachel already had 5 children Ralph (b 1911), Marian (b 1912), Edith my mother (b 1915), Kenneth (b 1917) and Harriet (b 1920); with Maurice (b 1922), Mary (b 1925) and Doreen (b 1928) being born at Fiddling Clough. It was a small farm of just over 30 acres and the neighbours were Rushtons at Windlefield, Proctors at Marfield, Parkers at High Gate



Fiddling Clough photographed in the 1990's

and

Chapmans at Oak Slack - beyond Chapmans was the Mount. Fiddling Clough, Oak Slack, Marfield, Lower and Higher Vargus, Dodgsons and Windlefield were all standing in the 18th century. There was no electricity and no mains water. There was a big low living room, kitchen, cellar and three bedrooms.

The meadow attached to Windlefield at the top of Dark Lane on the way to Fiddling Clough was arable land at one time and is still called the Cornfield. In the 1920s and 30s

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Dark Lane was passable for horses and carts. It is now overgrown and impassable. At the bottom of Dark Lane is the Brigstones and waterfalls, a once very popular beauty spot. Sometimes the children walked down the lane for shelter, but mostly down the fields. Clogs were hidden in the wall at the bottom for the return journey. As they grew up and went dancing at the Parish Rooms, the girls would go in long dresses tucked up with elastic, carrying their shoes under their arms. At the Brigstones they changed out of their clogs, put them in the wall, changed into shoes and let out the elastic from their dresses. At the top of Dark Lane going down to the Clough was the football field, where a team from Earby used to play. The children played football and cricket here, the boys making their own bats.

Fiddling Clough is set in a deep ghyll near the edge of the moor and there were two ways in and out - from Earby up Dark Lane and from Lothersdale left at Dodgsons Lane. Once a year a motor rally would make its way down Dodgsons Lane, across the moor and down Dark Lane. The coal man used to deliver coal by the ton down Dodgsons Lane; it came in big lumps and had to be broken with a hammer. At one time on a Monday a greengrocer, Mr Lowcock, visited the farm with a horse and cart.

At the Clough there were two out barns, or laithes, where young cattle and pigs were kept at opposite ends of the land. There were rats there, and sometimes tramps would sleep there. On the moor where the grass was poor, Amos built a pig hut and the pigs were taken to the top laithe in winter. 100 pigs were kept on the moor at one time, often having litters of up to 16. They were fattened and taken to market down Dark Lane. The Tempests at Kelbrook had a wagon and they moved them to market from the Brigstones. Sometimes on a Monday Amos would take the horse and float to Skipton with a load of pigs with a net over them. Cattle were kept in the low barn.

Looking at the front of the house from across the ghyll, it seems to be split into three sections. At the Earby end of the building was a stable for two horses with bawkes up above with hay for the horses. Under the horse stable there was a cellar, where the salted pig killed for Christmas was kept. Outside were some steps up to the middle section of the building where the Holdens lived. There was an empty house at the top, where an Irishman slept in summer. The Holdens had the same man, Michael, for many years, to be followed by one of his relatives. They were staunch Catholics and walked down into Earby every Sunday. After mass at 12 o'clock they went for a pint or two before returning to work in the afternoon. Downstairs in the top house was storage for various things including coal, proven bins and corn for animal feed. Large 12 stone bags of flour were delivered by the proven merchant. At the Earby end there was a place for the pigs, a cart house for the float and two carts and kennels for the dogs. There was an outside bucket toilet with a wooden seat and newspaper hung on a string behind the door. It was such a long way to go when it was dark, and the children went in twos, with either a paraffin lamp or a jar with a candle in. There was one seat and Amos had to empty it.

Kenneth kept hens and ducks in little stone huts, two on each side of the beck, and bought

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two huts for the three-cornered field. He used to take the eggs to sell down Earby and had his regular customers, including Eddie Broughton's shop opposite the Conservative Club. He also bred pigeons and built a hut in the upstairs window of the place next door. In front of the house was a garden with lupins, rhubarb and currant bushes.

Amos was a jack of all trades and a real horse man. He kept pigs, horses, young and laying off cattle and sheep; the sheep being dipped in the stream more towards the moor, and the last job was to throw the dog in. On one occasion a group of scouts from Liverpool came to camp down the ghyll. They got their water out of the beck - it wasn't very clean, after being used for sheep dip. There were lots of trees down the steep sided ghyll, with magpies and crows' nests and the children played for hours climbing them, and raced up and down on one wheeled bikes and go-karts, sledges in winter. Cows were hand milked and the milk used by the family; the shippon was towards Marlfield. Haytime was hard with all hands on deck. Amos was very crafty when turning the swathes - he was in front, then the children and the Irishman at the back - they had to keep up; there was no messing about. My mother Edith helped outside - she was at the end of the row before Marian reached the middle. A barrel of beer and a barrel of ginger beer were kept in the cellar at haytime, and large jugs of tea and a picnic basket were taken to the hay field.

Winters were often harsh and brought a lot of snow, when sheep had to be rescued from the drifts. When the snow drifted up the walls, the sheep got under the walls and the children had to look for them; when they saw a small hole, the sheep would be below and Amos would come to dig it out. The snow was up to the top of the door on many an occasion and the children walked on top of the frozen snow, wall high, to school. On occasions they couldn't get down to school and Grundy the school bobby was sent up from Alder Hill to give Amos a rollicking.

It was here at Fiddling Clough that the family of eight children grew up and all harboured fond memories of their childhood all their lives.

To be continued in the next edition

## **DEATH DISEASE AND MEDICINE IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY**

September talk by Dr Craig Thornber

Dr. Thornber has many local connections as he was born and brought up in Colne before moving to Cheshire where he was a Research Scientist and Project Manager for ICI Pharmaceuticals (now Astra - Zeneca). He has combined his interest in history with his profession to study the diseases and cures which our ancestors had to endure, (cures may not be the right word in many instances).

One of his ancestors, Matthew Cragg, farmed at Salterforth and built Cragg Row in the village.

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Dr Thornber compared mortality figures from 1735 and the mid 1800s with the early and late 20th century. Remarkably there was no significant reduction until the turn of the 20th century and this was not necessarily due to improvements in medical care but due to major advances in public health in the late Victorian era. Better water supply and sewage treatments were major factors. It was not until the mid 1940s that we saw the benefits of antibiotics. Even in 1900 36% of deaths were children under the age of five, by 1997 this had fallen to 0.8%. Mortality was high in the 18th and 19th centuries and was higher in urban areas than in the rural districts. You had a longer life expectancy if you were a country gentleman.

Mortality records first began in 1532 when plagues were prevalent. "Searchers of the Dead" were appointed (a very risky occupation) who had to investigate whether deaths were due to Plague. Other sources of data were Bills of Mortality, which were published in the Gentleman's Magazine, and annual government reports.

Most cures recommended sound quite bizarre to modern ears, there seems to have been a general notion that diseases could be remedied by draining bodily fluids e.g. bleeding or blistering. Dr Thornber cited the example of George Washington (1st President of America) who having caught a chill was first bled by a servant then again by two more doctors until he had lost so much blood that it almost certainly contributed to his death.

Even Mrs Beaton in the 1860's in her Household Book gives a cure for stroke to bleed the patient from the arm, administer laxatives and apply mustard poultices to the feet.

Dr. Thornber also cited examples of better practices developed by the likes of Louis Pasteur, Robert Koch and Florence Nightingale and the use of better anaesthetics.

Edward Jenner developed a vaccination for small pox. He noticed that milking maids did not tend to contract small pox and he attributed this to the fact that they had been infected by cow pox which gave them immunity to the more severe small pox. In what we would now class as an unethical experiment he first infected a boy with cow pox and later deliberately subjected him to small pox. Fortunately the boy survived giving credence to

### **SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER**

**At Aunty Emily's, Stoney Bank Road, Earby**

**on Saturday 26th February 2005**

**Please use the form attached to this edition of the Chronicles to book your place**

**Numbers are limited and places will be allocated to members and one guest first,  
other guests will be placed on waiting list.**



**A POLICEMAN'S LOT OR A LOT OF POLICEMEN**



Back Row left to right  
Barry Mooney, Peter Ormerod ?, -?-, Peter Wright, Dick Lancaster, -?-, -?-, -?-, -?-.  
Front Row left to right  
Ted Griffiths, Ian Brotherton?, Sergeant Bent, Inspector Hildred, Horace Taylor, -?-  
Most of the names were provided by Mrs Margaret Taylor the wife of Horace Taylor. If you can fill in the gaps please let the editor know.

This photograph was probably taken at the rear of the Earby Police Station which was situated on Colne Road near the junction with Salterforth Road. There is still a barred cell window preserved in the house conversion which resembles the cell windows in the picture. Can anyone shed light on the reason for or the occasion on which the photograph was taken. Presumably the officers in peaked caps are the Special Constables and those in helmets or in plain clothes are the full time officers of the Earby Police Station. If so this is a far cry from today's situation of a part time police presence in our town.

**DONATION TO THE ARCHIVES**

Member Doreen Turner has donated to the Society Archives four volumes of textile text books, from the ICS Reference Library series, dating from the beginning of the twentieth century. These cover a wide range of topics from mill construction and mill engineering through yarn spinning and preparation through the weaving processes used for various types of fibre. Many of the processes described will have been well known to Earby's textile workers of yesteryear.  
Thanks to Doreen for this donation.

THREE AGES OF WADDINGTON FOLD FARM



What a remarkable transformation when the pebble dash finish was removed from the front of Waddington Fold Farm.

One of Earby's oldest buildings, it now looks more like it did when it was built probably in the 17th century although the door jambs and window sills would have been in their natural stone state.

Even an old window which is evident on early

pictures and was hidden by the rendering has now come back into view.

Congratulations to the owners for this transformation.

The upper photograph was taken after the rendering was removed and the middle one taken some four or five years previously.

The lower picture was taken in about 1932 and was used in one of the Earby Urban



District Council's Town Guide Books.

If anyone knows any of the history of Waddington Fold Farm or knows of stories about former inhabitants then we would be pleased to know.

Contact the editor

### **NEW ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE AUTUMN FAIR**

The annual Autumn Fair was held at the New Road Community Centre in October 2004. The Society was represented with a book stall and a bric-a-brac stall to raise funds for the Society's coffers.

We also took the opportunity to launch the new publication "Picking Sticks with Stockings On - Memories of Earby" by Florence Wright. Our picture shows Florence about to sign the first copy.

The event raised £100 which after deducting the charge for the tables and the raffle prize donation left a profit of £75. Thanks to all those who donated items to sell and those who manned the stalls at the fair.



### **RICHARD (DICK) WELBURY SHUTTLEWORTH (1894-1918)** 9th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, attached to Royal Flying Corps

#### **Background and School Career**

'Dick' Shuttleworth was born 3rd April 1894, the youngest son of the late Charles Shuttleworth, of Beech Cliffe, Earby; the latter had been a cotton manufacturer at Victoria Mill, Earby. He spent 5 years at Earby Elementary School prior to going to Ermysted's Grammar School in Skipton in September 1905. Dick was a boarder and paid full fees. He left in July 1909 having reached 'Form V' and achieved an Oxford Local Junior Pass.

Dick proceeded into his father's business and was described in his army documentation as a 'Cotton Mill Manager and Book Keeper'. He was a member of the Ghyll Golf Club and the Craven Club of Skipton. At the time of his death he lived in the family home and was single.

#### **Service Record**

Dick 'attested' into the Army Reserve, at Skipton, on 9th December 1915. He was mobilised into the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps, as a private (10005) on 24th November 1916. He made an application for commission into the infantry in January 1917. He was discharged on appointment to a commission on 26 June 1917, joining the 9th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers; he first saw field service in September 1917.

On 27th November 1917, after just a few weeks' service, he was wounded by shell shrapnel in the back of the right thigh. The place where he received his injury was listed as 'Bethune Road'. The shrapnel was removed in a casualty clearing station and the wound sutured.

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He was sent back to England on 2nd December 1917, receiving treatment in a Liverpool hospital.

Once recovered, 2nd Lt. Shuttleworth successfully applied for a transfer into the Royal Flying Corps on 5th February 1918. He subsequently qualified as a pilot and was in the act of testing a new machine at the Midland depot, at Stanford in Lincolnshire, on Friday 16th August 1918, when he met his death. He was aged 24. The remains of 2nd Lieutenant Shuttleworth were brought home for internment at Thornton-in-Craven Church on Tuesday 20th August.

### Tributes 'In Memorium'

The Craven Herald, on 23rd August, reported:  
*"Dick", as he was familiarly known among his intimates, was of a most amiable disposition and possessed social qualities, including musical talents, which endeared him to all who knew him.'*



The report goes on to list the many floral tributes sent, including 'a token of respect and deepest sympathy from the Wapers, Winders, Twisters, Tapers and Warehousemen, Victoria Mill, Earby; with the deepest sympathy and regret from the weavers, Victoria Mill, Earby' - a mark of respect from the workers he managed in the family business.

Sources:

School Admissions Register, no. 24

Chronicles, 1909, 1918

Craven's Part in the Great War, p. 73

Craven Herald, 23-8-1918

PRO- WO 339/ & Common Wealth War Graves Commission database.

*A confession - I was handed this article at, I think, the West Craven History Seminar back in May. Not having worn my suit for a long time it got forgotten in the inside pocket. I would be grateful if the author could make him or herself known and accept my apologies - Bob Abel.*

**MORE FARMING MEMORIES**  
**Member Audrey Patterson writes from Scotland**

The article in issue 34 on Amos Holden and Lothersdale revived memories for me. My aunt and uncle, Jim and Molly Rawlinson lived on a farm at Serrgaleg\*, a place I have never seen in print so produce it phonetically here. Later they were tenants at Black Lane Ends Farm, both places within walking distance of Lothersdale.

As a niece from the West Riding of Yorkshire I visited them frequently in the summer and stayed with them for a month or more. Before the winter set in my father used to take dried goods, sacks of sugar, flour and so forth as stores for them during the snow time, when the roads to their farms were often impassable. I understand there was a dispute between the counties about the boundaries and certainly snow ploughs rarely reached the farms. Access was therefore treacherous and sometimes, being caught in the snow at the beginning of winter, we had to reach the farm by walking on top of the dry stone dyke.

During the winter months they worked the farm, killing stock and hens when necessary. One year my aunt caught anthrax. She was very ill I understand but made a recovery without medical aid. The field between the house and the gate was full of geese, good "watch dogs" she said and they certainly frightened any would-be caller. One year Molly was hit by the wing of a gander which broke her arm but she took the bus on the right day to get it fixed in town.

At neither farm was there electricity, running water or gas and we were used to stone floors, dry privy, a trough at the door with a pump for water from the spring and a roaring fire in the range used for heating and cooking. Tilley lamps gave a good light downstairs and there was the adventure of going to bed with a candle and falling into a huge goose feather filled mattress and as it acted like a present day duvet it was very snug.

My aunt was wonderful with her hands. She was a marvellous baker, made butter and cheese and taught her visitors quite willingly. She covered the stone floors with rag rugs made from scraps of material and we all helped. She was wonderful with a crochet hook and sewed. Many of her winter occupations were handed over to her relatives.

One day a week we caught the local bus to take eggs, butter and cheese to the town market and the bus driver waited for her if by any chance she was not quite ready. That day was a glorious rake round the market where Molly was well known.

Jim worked the farm and also was a casual labourer at Raygill Quarry going to and fro on his bike and always whistling or singing.

They were a very bright happy couple, making all their young nephews and nieces very welcome. No matter how busy they were they would always give a ride on the cart horse, have patience to show young hands how to milk, feed hens and pigs as well as go and pick

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wild flowers or hips to make necklaces. Large bunches of primroses were eagerly picked and arranged in any available container. We all learnt a lot of country lore from them both. Sadly they had no children of their own but they made us all very welcome and for me it was a much loved visit. They were a wonderful couple.

I recall Molly spending many hours helping a bull who had a damaged horn from trying to knock down a stone wall. She dressed it and despite its notorious ill temper it stood quite each time as she crooned to it and bandaged its very crumpled horn.

Eventually the pair went to live in Colne when in their 70s and Molly had a wonderful time switching the lights on and off and turning on the tap and marvelling how easy life was in a council house in the town. They were as cheerful there as they had been during their married life in the back of beyond

On a different theme, my father had connections with Bells Farm Thornton-in-Craven and a mill some where near Kelbrook, Browns, which I believe went out of business. I wonder if any reader knows of either place. I have not been very successful tracing his ancestors. I had better success with the forebears of my mother who was born at Stoney Bank I believe.

Thank you for the Chronicles, I find it very interesting. Melba Hartley used to be a friend of my older sister and her father's oat cakes were often hung on our washing pulley as they dried before cooking.

Audrey Patterson - October 2004

\* EDITORS NOTE - The Ordnance Survey map suggests that the name may be Surgill as in Near and Further Surgill Head and Surgill Bottoms farms just to the south of Lothersdale.

### **CHILD LABOUR IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND**

At the October meeting Mr. Fred Holcroft from Wigan stepped in at short notice as a replacement for the October speaker. His topic was "Child Labour in Victorian England".

Prior to the industrial revolution any industry was carried out on the domestic scale with all the family participating. As an example from the textile industry, the father would be the hand loom weaver working in the cottage and the unmarried daughters would spin the yarn and the younger children would perhaps do the cotton or wool carding.

With the coming of the industrial revolution the factory system became established and the domestic workers migrated to the mills and it was only natural that the children went with them to work. However there was a world of difference between the conditions working at home compared with the working conditions in the mills. Children as young as 8 years old did quite dangerous jobs round the new textile machines and worked long hours.



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Social legislation was slow to catch up, due probably to the mill owners wanting cheap labour and often because the small wage a child could bring home was essential for the family to survive.

However from the 1830s onwards legislation was very gradually introduced firstly limiting child labour and eventually abolishing it, although within living memory school children of the age of 14 went part time to the mill to learn a trade.

The mining industry was another example of the exploitation of child labour and as the industry expanded from small almost domestic mines to large mechanised collieries, conditions grew worse.

As a prerequisite to introducing legislation the government had to gather facts to back up its case and commissioners were appointed to travel the country gathering evidence from the people involved, the workers, the mill owners and independent people like the clergy. All the evidence gathered was published and most is still accessible to researchers. It is fascinating to read first hand accounts from child witnesses and Fred brought some examples with him.

Child labour was the norm in early Victorian times and other examples given were boy chimney sweeps, boys employed in small foundries operating bellows and even in the country children were employed at the hiring fairs as bird scarers.

We have come along way in industrial legislation since those days 150 to 200 years ago; thank goodness!

### **GAWTHORPE HALL**

Our speaker at the November meeting was Mr. Rod Wilshaw a volunteer with the National Trust. Rod has been a volunteer worker with the National Trust for a number of years and is vice chairman of the Pendle Forest Branch of the Trust.

His illustrated talk gave us an insight in to the seven centuries of the history of Gawthorp Hall and in particular the Shuttleworth Family who are so closely connected with the Hall.

The Shuttleworths first appear at Gawthorpe in the 14th century when Ughtred Shuttleworth move there from Suttleworth Hall at Hapton. At Gawthorpe was a four storey tower possibly a watch tower or a pele tower around which the Elizabethan house was built in the early 1600s.

Gawthorpe hall when originally built was in a picturesque setting with magnificent views but with the coming of the industrial revolution became surrounded by industry particularly coal mines.

The Hall and the Shuttlewworth Family suffered many vicissitudes.

At the turn of the 17th century the Hall was restyled and updated.

At one period after the civil wars the owner, Colonel Richard Shuttleworth, became so unpopular with the locals that the family moved away. The Colonel was one of the local sequestrators after the civil war and profited from the misfortunes of his Royalist and Catholic neighbours. The Hall fell into disrepair, being used as farm buildings for almost 150 years before Robert Shuttleworth decided he wanted to live there and began restoring the building.

The Victorian period was the zenith of the Hall when it was used for entertaining the great and the good of the country. In 1850 Sir James Kay Shytleworth commissioned the famous architect Sir James Barry to restore the house.

However as with many a great house a decline set in after the first world war. Rachel Kay Shuttleworth was the last of the family to live in the hall before it was bequeathed to the

### **FAMILY HISTORY QUESTS**

#### **WILKINSON**

New member Louise Gawne has Wilkinson ancestors. Both her great great great grandfathers were called John Wilkinson. The census returns for 1851 show that one was at Earby Farm also known as Cowgill Farm but by 1861 he was living in Riley Street and he died in 1865.

The other John Wilkinson was a weaver in Earby who died in 1845.

Louise is asking if anyone has heard of Earby Farm and if so where was it as she cannot find it on any map. The 1851 census return suggests the farm may have been in the Stoneybank area. Also has anyone any old photographs of Riley Street.

She also wants to know if there are any apprenticeship records which might reveal information about her weaver John Wilkinson.

Please contact the editor if you have any relevant information.

#### **BAILEY**

Graham Bailey from Hampshire is searching for information about his great great grandfather, James Bailey, We think he was born at Hague in 1798 but for some reason baptised in Colne instead of Thornton. It seems as though he married and lived at Lane End in Salterforth, having his earlier children baptised at Thornton-in-Craven before moving to Copy House in Colne. The family eventually moved to the Haslingden area.

There are many anomalies in the records which need clarifying. Anyone with information which might be of use please contact the editor.



**ALL'S WELL AT ST. MARY'S**

Up date on the Society's Project to restore the ancient well in the churchyard at Thornton-in-Craven.

There is good news and not so good news. Firstly, phase one has been completed and the well has now been renovated thanks to grants from North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council and the Church. St Mary's 100 club has pledged £600. The structure has been stabilised and repointed using lime mortar and a new door added.

The second part of the project is to obtain funding from the Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) to provide access for all to the well by installing a pathway, steps and a standing area and generally improve its surrounding landscape. The well is situated at the bottom of a steep grassy slope in a rather untidy area of the church yard.



The Refurbished Well

At the same time research was to be carried out into the history of the well and its benefactor the Rev Henry Richardson which would culminate in the publication of a book.

Much hard work went into costing out the project and putting forward a bid for funding from the LHI (itself funded by National Lottery money). At the eleventh hour, to the disappointment of the Well Committee, we were advised that the "goal posts had been moved" and the LHI would not be able to fund the amount of money being applied for.

The dilemma was now whether to start from scratch with another funding body or scale down the original bid and perhaps apply in two phases. It has been decided to continue with the LHI which has meant that the funding bid will be split into sections and the specification of the original plan will be reduced to enable a LHI bid to go forward. A bid for £10,000 has been submitted. In kind donations and voluntary work contribute a further £17,000 to the project and some 73 volunteers will be involved.

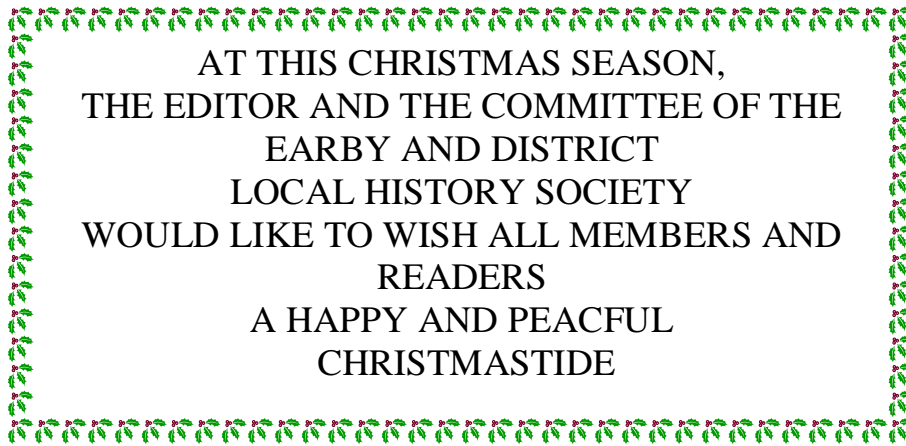
A phase 2 bid to LHI or another funding body will be made to complete the access works, continue the historical research and publish the book.

Great care was taken to ensure that the restoration of the well was done in keeping with the historic 250 year old structure and hopefully it will now last for at least another couple of centuries.

**THE JIM WALKER COLLECTION**

Following the sudden death of Jim Walker, the society has been in contact with Jim's sister Joy who has kindly agreed to pass on many of Jim's archives which he has collected over the years. It has been a slow job to sort out Jim's effects but to date the society has received a large pile of photographs and a number of volumes of Jim's research notes plus boxes of his publications.

We are greatly indebted to Joy for passing these on to the society and it is intended that when all the items have been catalogued they will be archived as the Jim Walker Collection.



**FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME**

**Tuesday 18th January - John Hartley "World War I Trench Art"**

**Tuesday 15th February - AGM & Photograph Evening**

**Saturday 26th February - Annual Dinner at Auntie Emily's**

**Tuesday 15th March - Brian Halliwell "Life and Times of Women Pirates"**

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**DATA PROTECTION ACT**

Members details are held on computer for mailing and compilation of a membership list. The details will not be used for any other purpose without the express permission of the member. If you do not wish your details to be held on computer please inform the Treasurer immediately.

**THE SOCIETY**

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

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**Contents:**

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

**NOTE FROM THE  
EDITOR**

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

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