

Earby Chronicles

Edition 49

SUMMER 2008



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, Hague and Salterforth.

OFFICIALS

Chairman :
Bob Abel
phone 01282 843850

Vice Chairman :
Bev Parker
phone 01282 843226

Secretary :
Margaret Brown
phone 01282 843932

Treasurer :
Helen Horner
phone 01282 843850

Programme Secretary
Wendy Faulkner
phone 01282 863160

Liaison Officer:
Trevor Tattersall
phone 01282 842819

Archivist:
Margaret Greenwood
phone 01282 843394

NRCC Rep:
Wendy Venables

Committee:
Squire Firth
phone 01282 817126

Editor :
See back page

£2.00

Members of
Society free

QUEEN OF THE MAY

This year the Earby Development Group brought back one of our local traditions at its Fun Day on 24th May. Since 1946 Earby and District Social and Festival Committee had organised the crowning of the May Queen, but sadly it ended with the 1992 May Festival.

The May Queen of 1947 was Miss Margaret Halstead, followed in 1948 by Netta Hargreaves and in 1949 by Betty Priestley. In Festival of Britain Year, 1951, the May Queen was crowned on 26th May and the significance will become cleared once we have recalled the extent of this popular local event.



The order of festivities in 1951 began at 1.15 p.m. at Linden Road with the judging of all 'walking classes', followed at 1.30 p.m. by judging of the 'vehicle tableaux' at Main Street, Kelbrook. The vehicles then moved on to join the procession at Earby Station. The whole procession continued along Colne Road, Skipton Road, School Lane, Water Street, Riley Street, Green End Road, New Road, Victoria Road and Albion Road to the recreation ground off Skipton Road.

That procession was led by Earby Prize Brass Band followed by the retiring May Queen, Miss Pauline Hands, and her retinue. (Pauline's retinue in 1950 included Marjorie Horsfield, Vera Greenwood, Shirley Cocking, Kathleen Burbridge, Margaret Smalley, Eileen Dixon with page boys David Pickles and Adrian Slinger). Other participants included Maypole Dancers, Kelbrook Junior & Infants' School with "Richard I and the Crusaders", Riley Street Methodist Church Sunday School with "Old Gypsy Encampment", Earby Road Safety Committee with "Courtesy of the Road" and Earby New Road Junior School with "Trade with the Phœnicians". Earby Allotment Holders' Association presented an "Old English Garden" and Earby Modern School "Pre-Factory Spinning and Weaving". Other tableaux were by members of Earby Parish Church, Kelbrook Young Farmers Club, Earby Baptist Church, and finally arrived the May Queen elect and her retinue.

recent talks & features

- Page 4 Thornton Church Improvements by Derek Claburn
- Page 7 CWS Handy Hints by Stephanie Carter
- Page 8 The Ancient Jinney Well by Nicholas Livsey



**Marjorie Horsefield
(now Kisby)**

In 1951 Miss Marjorie Horsefield was crowned May Queen. Little would she have known that some 57 years later her own great granddaughter Caitlin would be crowned Queen of the May 2008.

Caitlin O'Connor is a pupil at Laneshawbridge School and member of Earby Youth Club. Having taken a leading role as the narrator in 'Joseph', her school's annual concert, at the Hippodrome Theatre in Colne

in December last year, she is well practiced at public speaking and will represent Earby at a number of events during the coming year. In an exclusive interview for Chronicles Caitlin said "I was surprised to be chosen but shall be pleased to follow in my Great Grandma's footsteps and look forward to the different events I shall attend during my year as Earby's May Queen".

Footnote: The Society has collected a full set of programmes from these May Day events. They provide an invaluable resource for the study of social history, giving not only the detail of individual participants and groups but the advertisements from local businesses, churches and charities testify to a wide range of services that were available to the townsfolk of Earby, Kelbrook and the surrounding area. In addition we have many photographs and cine film of Earby's May Days over the years.



Caitlin O'Connor



Caitin and her retinue

PEOPLE OF THE LEEDS LIVERPOOL CANAL

Mike Clarke, our speaker at the May meeting, could have classed himself as one of the subjects of his talk "People of Leeds and Liverpool Canal" as he once lived on a narrow boat on that canal. and now lives close to the Leeds Liverpool Canal at Barnoldswick. He has become an expert on the history of the canal and has published a range of books on different aspects of it, including in 1990, "The Leeds and Liverpool Canal: a History and Guide.". Mike is President of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Society

which was formed to help promote the canal and encourage greater understanding and appreciation of the canal's history and environment.

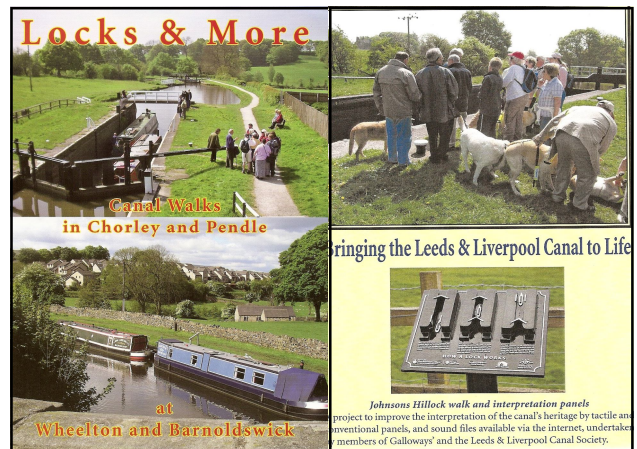
Efficient transport on inland waterways depends on locks to get vessels up and down gradients and there is evidence that locks were used in Europe as far back as the time of Leonardo de Vinci. In the 18th century Thomas Steers, a Liverpool dock engineer, developed the system when he built Liverpool's first wet dock. This gave an added impetus for building canals but in those days canals were built to meet a specific local need, (and the L & LC is no exception) and not planned as the networks they now provide.

In 1766, John Stanhope, a lawyer from Horsforth near Leeds, paid John Longbottom to do a survey, principally for the transport of coal. John Hustler another lawyer took over on Stanhope's death, building sections from Liverpool to the Douglas Canal and from Gargrave to Leeds. A branch to Settle was planned, but never built due to objections by the local Birkbeck family. The promoters could not get enough of the landowners to agree, so no Parliamentary Act could be obtained and a canal could not be built without Parliamentary consent.

Bank Newton locks were opened in 1793, followed a year later by Barnoldswick locks. Here Mr. Bagshaw of Coates Hall, Barnoldswick, found it necessary to stop up passage across his estate near Greenberfield which had been made under the direction of the Canal Company, but without his consent – and he won! However, he died shortly afterwards and the matter must have been forgotten, so the road stayed in place as it is today.

Mike's books on the subject are well worth looking up in your local library if you're interested in knowing more.

In addition, Mike has recently been involved with two pamphlets "Locks & More" canal walks in Chorley and Pendle at Wheelton and Barnoldswick and "Bringing the Leeds & Liverpool Canal to Life" in conjunction with Galloway's Society for the Blind. Both will be available locally and at tourism offices. The guide to each walk is available for downloading from www.galloways.org.uk. Galloway's are a charity providing help and support to blind and partially sighted people in Lancashire. Their address is: Howick Park Avenue, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 OLS, 01772 744148.



The Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society records and promotes the history and heritage of the canal, and can be contacted through their Secretary, Warren House, 27 Skipton Road, Gargrave, BD23 3SA, tel. 01756 749301, email m.hamgar@btinternet.com, website: www.llcs.org.uk. British Waterways maintain and promote the canal, and their local office is at: Waterside House, Waterside Drive, Wigan, WN3 5AZ. More details about Britain's canals can be found on www.waterscape.com. The project was originally financed through the Local Heritage Initiative, then by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

SO WHAT'S NEW?

We hear so often in the news these days about Polish migrant workers in particular and could be excused for thinking this is a new phenomenon. However the following report from the Craven Herald on June 27th 1947 suggests otherwise.

“Polish Workers”

“More than 30 polish weavers are at work in Barnoldswick and Salterforth at the present time and the number will be increased to 56 when others arrive for employment by two other firms.

Their employment is agreed on condition that they join the Weavers, Winders and Beamers Association, work under the same conditions as the native labour force and are the first to be played off in the event of unemployment.”

Just after World War II there was a shortage of people wanting to work in the local textile mills and this was one way of filling the gap.

THORNTON CHURCH

Improvements provide a glimpse of its past

By Derek Claburn

In March 2008, a project inside St. Mary's Church was the installation of modern facilities - a disabled toilet and a small catering area which has brought to light a number of small but interesting aspects of the area adjoining the tower on its north side. Hitherto, the area had comprised of a storeroom containing a massive cast iron safe, some flower arranging equipment and a primitive chemical toilet. A screen of oak paneling with pseudo 16th century tracery and a doorway fronted the whole of the area.

Formerly the area had contained mid 19th century pine wall paneling and the remnants of 'joined' cupboards. The area had been given a ceiling, which provided further loft storage. The refurbishment of the area necessitated the removal of the wall paneling, the loft area, the former toilet and the remains of the storage cupboards. So what was revealed?

Anyone expecting remnants of medieval wall decoration or similar were to be sorely disappointed. The most significant factor to emerge was the massive thickness of the north wall of the tower as revealed by the tower arch. The tower at this point is well over 3½ feet thick and on its eastern side slopes almost 10 degrees outwards from the vertical plane. Externally, once the tower rises above the north aisle roof, there is no evidence of this outward thrust. Unlike the nave arch of the tower, the two side arches are bereft of vertical columns. The original purpose of these two side units of the tower is unclear and the fact that their architectural style is earlier than the nave arch, suggests that when the present tower was raised in c.1510, parts of an earlier tower may have been incorporated. The removal of the wall paneling behind the former toilet area revealed a blocked -up doorway previously providing access into the rear of the north aisle - close to the present day unit holding the

Blessed Virgin Mary.

A possible reason for the existence of this doorway may be linked to the construction of a west gallery which was installed during the incumbency of Reverend Henry Richardson (1735-1778) in 1749. Unfortunately no known photographs or line drawings exist to show the nature and layout of Richardson's gallery in Thornton church.

Its main purpose was to provide a raised singing space for singers and instrumentalists to accompany the common services of Matins and Evening Prayer. Singing groups accompanying services were popular in the mid 18th century. These were often augmented by 'Church bands' - musicians playing violins, cellos, double basses, oboes, shawms, and serpents. Richardson's father in law, Benjamin Dawson, had been one of the sponsors for the erection of a similar gallery across the west end of the old St Mary's Church, Oldham in the 1730s. It is believed that the Thornton gallery was removed during the 'restoration' of the church in the third quarter of the 19th century to make room for a pipe organ.



Now back to the blocked-up doorway. It is possible that it opened onto a staircase that would have provided access to the gallery. Access from the southern arch area would have presented greater difficulty - with the position of the tower door onto the spiral staircase to ascend the tower - belfry and former ringing chamber. Henry Richardson and the churchwardens of the day had two bells recast and re-hung in 1759. The task of lowering the two former bells and raising the newly cast bells would have required the bell hangers to remove portions of the gallery flooring and ceiling as the gallery had been installed well before the re-casting of the bells, i.e. 1749.

The third aspect to be revealed in the renovation work is that the timbering of the roof/ceiling of the northern tower recess follows the patterns of the north aisle and it is reasonable to assume that the re-roofing of the church sometime before 1700 encompassed the rebuilding of the whole roof structure.

The form of mouldings cut on the principal rafters echoes those used in the north and south aisles.

One final aspect is worth noting, the archaeological survey carried out as the paneling and fittings were removed revealed no significant material or finds. The newly exposed walls were largely un-plastered, roughly hewn random stonework, copiously covered by layers of lime wash. When chipped away these did not reveal any pre-Reformation wall decoration hardly to be expected in what was really little more than a tower alcove or recess. Furthermore, the existing flooring area was relatively modern

since the tower floor has been raised 18 inches (45 cms.) as witnessed by the current steps leading down to the Tudor arched tower doorway.

What was revealed rapidly disappeared as the contractors created the lining walls for the new disabled toilet and service area.

Footnote:

Owners of the 2007 published book on Henry Richardson 1710-1778 - Life and Legacy of a Thornton Rector might like to keep this article with the book. As more on the history of St. Mary's Church becomes revealed, Chronicles will feature updates to add to that most detailed study. The book can be purchased from the Society at £5.00 plus P&P.

STICK AROUND

Bob Abel reports

"Stick Around" was the title of the Society's April talk given by former police officer, Brian White. Brian has been interested in walking sticks since being a teenager and describes himself as an ambalist and we were surprised to learn that the British Guild of Stick makers has over 1000 members.

His talk was interspersed with humorous anecdotes, jokes and some tall stories. He brought several fascinating examples of walking sticks, which he had collected or made himself. The handles of his sticks, usually made of cow's horn, were many and varied including a trout, a badger's head and an ogre's head.

Some of the collection he showed had hidden uses. One, which had been used by an old lady, had a handle decorated with depictions of the Hindu Goddess Kali. Kali is the goddess of death and destruction and with the flick of his wrist Brian demonstrated that the innocuous looking walking aid was in fact a lethal swordstick.

Another stick was a disguised breach-loading firearm (needless to say it had been rendered harmless by having the trigger mechanism removed). King Louis Philippe of France was apparently assassinated with a similar gun, in 1836. Other examples were a beautifully crafted glass walking stick said to be Waterford Crystal and made at Nailsea. They did not officially make such items but this one may have been made "on the quiet".

Brian told of how the police on the case of the Whitechapel Murders (Jack the Ripper) had a good idea who the perpetrator was but did not have strong enough evidence to make an arrest. When the senior investigating officer retired his colleagues presented him with a stick, the handle of which was carved in the likeness of the suspect.

Other fascinating sticks included one made up of spent World War II bullet cases and one with a handle made from bell metal recovered from York Minster after the fire of 1840.

One rather gruesome item was a Pizzel Stick, which is made from a stretched, cured and varnished bull's penis. The old farmers quite commonly used these, perhaps when rounding up their cows!

Brian's talk was well received as we had been very well entertained.

CWS HOUSEHOLD HINTS

By Stephanie Carter

The CWS (Co-operative Wholesale Society) produced a Book of Household Hints in the years following the Second World War. How times have changed, as is evident from the following extract on washing hair:

“It is worth looking after your hair...Have you ever wondered why hairdressers so often use verbena to perfume their preparations? The reason is that oil of verbena has a definite tonic effect on the hair, as well as giving it a pleasant piquant scent. If you make your own shampoo, using the CWS soap of your fancy, you can easily perfume it by stirring a few drops of oil of verbena into the soap jelly before using it.

Here is a recipe for a good home-made hair wash. Take one teaspoon of powdered borax, one teaspoon of lemon juice, 1oz of shredded CWS white soap, one teaspoon of sulphur, and 8 tablespoons of boiling water. Place all in a bottle, shake well and cork. A few drops of clove oil, lavender, eau-de-Cologne, or any other desired perfume may be added if desired. Use one teaspoon for each shampoo hair wash. Rub the finger-tips well into the scalp and rinse twice. The juice of half a lemon should be added to the final lukewarm water.

Choose a bath towel that is wearing in the centre. Fold it in four to find the middle point and cut a circle about 16ins. in diameter - large enough to fit over the head. Bind the raw edge, and you have a useful wrap to use when shampooing.”

Quite a performance!

We are also given a little poem “The Darning Bag”. Darning?!!
Oh, here's that bulging bag again,
With flannel needle-book and all,
And every kind of card and skein,
And multi-coloured ball!
And here are stockings - what a lot!
Of all descriptions, thick and thin.
I don't know really how I've got
The courage to begin.
But in and out the needle goes,
And in the end its wonderful
How all the legs and heels and toes
Receive their meed of wool,
And start once more their gay career,
Leaving the darning bag quite flat,
But when next Thursday comes - oh dear!
I'll find it just as fat.



The CWS
booklet, loaned by
Elizabeth Bradley

And here is Gracie Field's recipe for the famous Lancashire Hot-Pot:
First take a best end of neck of mutton, two kidneys, a moderate sized onion and some oys-

ters. Free mutton from the fat, leave chops lean, take an earthenware stewpot and fill it with layers of chops, kidney thinly sliced, sliced potatoes, the onion finely minced. Before putting the mutton in, season with salt and pepper. Cut large potatoes in half and put as top layer. Add liquor from oysters and half a pint of stock. Cover the stew-pan closely and bake in gentle oven for 3 hours. If in danger of becoming dry, add stock accordingly. When meat is tender serve, adding oysters, which should be 'hotted' in the oven separately. Pour gravy over the hot-pot when serving.

She adds that this dish should be served very hot, with pickled cabbage on the table.

Throughout this gem of a booklet are plugs for CWS soap:

"There's hope where there's CWS soap"

"Dirt flies before CWS soap"

"Bright faces with CWS toilet soap"

"Defy germs with CWS carbolic soap"

Our forthcoming publication, available in the Autumn, is full of fascinating snippets of information on Earby Co-op. We hope you will buy one and enjoy it.

THE ANCIENT JINNEY WELL

By Nicholas Livsey

To the east of the 'Broadstone Burial Ground of Ease', on the edge of what was once a sunken lane called the 'Milking Gap', stands the ancient village well called 'Jinney Well'.



The medieval 'Boothman Well' renamed 'Jinney Well' in the mid 19th century, photo circa- 1995

This well acquired its present name during the middle of the 19th century. With an influx of workers from the Cheshire and Liverpool areas to take jobs in the local mills, quar-

ries and the canal, they brought with them their beliefs and customs. Hence, the name 'Jinney' which is associated with a saying intended to keep children away from the village water supply or other dangerous waters "quick, quick, run for your life Jinney Greenteeth's coming with a knife". Various spellings of the name have been suggested over the years Ginney, Jinny but the present one is accurate, its name is only spoken of and rarely written down.

From the medieval period, up until the mid 19th century, the well was known as 'Boothman Well' and was probably named after some local character who'd improved the well from its original state as a spring.

Tradition holds that it's as old, if not older, than the village itself, which nucleated around the middle of the 12th century; who knows it may even have been used for thousands of years, as springs and wells were very important places both for worship and as sources of safe drinking water. It is perhaps likely to have been seen and used as a holy well during the use of the burial ground and chapel of ease at Broadstones.

We find it strange that a burial ground would be established so close to the village's well, unless they knew the exact course of the spring before hand and that it would not be contaminated by mass burials, for example during the 'black death'.



Jinney Well, showing the old stile and path with the old boundary wall separating the burial ground, circa- 2001

From 1965 the well has been protected lying within common land and has been maintained by villagers and Salterforth Parish Council and legal access to the water can never be denied. A footpath runs through the well and a small stone squeezer stile still exists in the southern wall.

In 1932, the owners of the mill wanted wider access down the lane at the side of the mill as they had already built a lean-to wooden shed against the side of the weaving shed. The gap past the well was too narrow for lorries and trailers that were loaded round the back, so they had the far end of the well filled in and walled off and piped the water from the trough to the remaining part of the well. The trough was flagged over and backfilled to allow passage by wheeled vehicles.

So the shape of the well was originally rectangular, with a trough at the far end. When we look at the previous photograph we see that the copingstones at the right hand side have sunk and the retaining wall is different from the rest, this is the end that was covered over and backfilled. We are not exactly sure when the three outer walls were built around the well, but we presume it was at the same time the level of the lane was raised to allow the laying of the first village sewer, the lane had to be raised so the pipe could cross Salterforth Beck.



Jinney Well, showing the curved steps down into the well, circa- 2001

When the new Inghamite Chapel was built in 1933, water stopped flowing into the well. It is said that the buildings foundations disturbed the course of the spring, which runs from Cross Flatts Hill. Jinney Well had remained dry for 67 years until the winter floods in November 2000.

My thanks go to Muriel Pollard and the late Bob King, for most of the spoken history relating to this well.

Editors Note—The Well is situated in the Silentnight car park at Salterforth

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We asked, recently, for more articles and replies to member's queries, and yes you've come up trumps! Here are some of them

From Barbara Barrett of Norfolk:

The photograph at the top of page 16 of the Spring 2008 Edition dates from 1930, give or take a year or two. The only member of the 'troupe', of which I can be absolutely sure of recognising, is Edna Lawson, standing on the far right of the back row. She lived in the end house opposite the shop in Vicarage Road, Kelbrook, I think it would be No. 17. Other families of similar age living in Vicarage Road at the same time as the Lawson family, where the Bullocks, Rileys, and Hodgesons, whose relatives might have the same photograph and maybe with a list of names?

From J Dalton of Scotforth, Lancaster:

I was interested to read in the Spring 2008 Edition the reference to "Zeppelins over Earby", as recorded by the late Margaret Firth on February 4th 1916. Evidently, visits by Zeppelins were very much part of life in Earby at the time.

From about 1912 my late mother, formerly Miss Dinah A Hodkinson, had a confectioners shop at 65 Victoria Road, Earby. In March 1916 she was found to be guilty of a blackout regulations offence on the evening of March 6th and she was fined 9 shillings (45p). A report appeared in the Craven herald on March 24th 1916 and makes rather amusing reading.

Earby Light that "Could be seen for miles"

"Defendants seldom give evidence against themselves, but Dinah A Hodkinson, confectioner, of Earby did so on march 6th when P.S. Fieldhouse had occasion to draw attention to the strong light coming from her premises in Victoria Road. At the request of the sergeant, the defendant accompanied him to the other side of the thoroughfare. Here he took out his watch and defendant was able, by the light from her shop widow, to tell the time, 10.10pm, remarking that she did not know the light was so brilliant. There was no appearance and a fine of 9s was imposed".

I find at rather remarkable that Margaret Firth's note in her exercise book, and my mother's offence, occurred within about a month of each other.

I still live in hope that someone, somewhere, will be able to supply me with a photograph of my mother's shop at 65 Victoria Road, Earby.

From Gladys Jones:

My mother Doris Smith was one of the Smiths of Earby. We are descended from

William and Hannah, whose maiden name was also Smith. The only person in my immediate family who bears that surname now is my Aunt Norah, widow of Morville Smith. She is well past 103 and lived in Earby until a few years before her 100th birthday, when she went to live with her daughter in Inverness. Gladys's address has been passed to Kathy Bluhm, they will have lots more to discuss.

From Richard Hartley of Cheltenham:

The "Smiths of Earby" article has started another genealogical hare for me. Three William Hartleys were direct antecedents of mine; Little Billy of musical fame was my great grandfather. All married Smiths – Esther in 1801, Olivia on 11 October 1829, and Sarah on 22 February 1873.



However the purpose of this letter was to send a photograph of the staff at Grove Shed, Earby in 1932. This followed the article on textile Trade in Earby. Novello Hartley was the manager seen seated on the extreme left. He was one of Little Billy's sons. The three seated centre look as though they are 'family' and possibly the owners. Richard hopes the photograph will be of interest, especially to members the Smith family.

MEMORIES OF RONNIE COWGILL

Following on from the article about the H. Cowgill medal in the last issue of Chronicles, it now seems that the medal was struck with the wrong initial, it should have been R. Cowgill not H. Cowgill..

Edna Pickles remembers Cowgills confectioners on Colne Road which was known to locals as Betty Wacket's and Ronnie Cowgill, a postman, helping in the shop. Cake decoration was his hobby and he entered many cakes in exhibitions and after the shows his cakes would be put in the shop window and were greatly admired, they were wonderful creations.

Member **John Bailey** of Little Waltham, Chelmsford also remembers Ronnie Cowgill, who was at one time a postman in Earby (during the time we were there)*, was a keen chorister along with my father and sang in the various choral activities, for example in the now demolished Methodist church. However, his hobby was icing cakes and cake decorations and consequently was always busy around Christmas time. He used to make icing flowers, roses, violets, etc. in colour and these were sold by E. Harrison & Co. over the counter, on small sheets of greaseproof paper, about a dozen at time. They were very popular.

Ronnie also iced cakes for Busbys in Bradford (a former department store on Manningham Lane) and we used to take them on the Wednesday "Egg Run"*** in special cake boxes. He also entered iced cakes (cardboard bases) in confectionary exhibitions in London. I believe he won several high awards for some of his designs, but have no proof.

He was persuaded by my father to leave the Post Office and become a full-time confectioner, which he did before we returned to Scarborough. He first took a post with a baker in Newcastle and later ended up in Southampton, where he eventually died.

He decorated the cake for my first marriage in January 1952, and had hoped to come to the ceremony, but fell ill and sent the cake down by rail from Newcastle instead. A friend and I had to rush up by car to Kings Cross the night before the wedding to collect it!

A lovely story about Ronnie remains in my memory. He used to deliver letters over the tops, walking up Stoney Bank road to the farms. One winter day, one of the farmers' wives invited him in for a cup of tea. On entering the kitchen he found it all laid out for icing the Christmas cake, an all-day job according to the farmer's wife. While she was away making the tea Ronnie set about icing the cake and when she returned it was nearly finished. You can imagine her surprise at the postman's skills!

* John and his parents were evacuated from Scarborough to Earby during WWII .

** The "we" referred to were John and his uncle, Jack Greenwood. At that time the Greenwood family had a small poultry farm, as well as their business at E. Harrison & Co., and supplied eggs to the bakery at Busbys and to a shop in Headingley, Leeds.

LETTERS FROM THE BOER WAR

by Stephanie Carter and Bob Abel

On the Monday morning of November 20th 1899 an Earby Reservist, Lance Sergeant Arthur Green, left Earby on the 9-00 a.m. train on a journey to Pontefract barracks (the Craven Herald of 24th November 1899 mistakenly refers to him as George Green.). His regiment, the York and Lancasters, had received orders to proceed to South Africa. Arthur Green had moved to Earby from Bradford with his wife Jane and young son Eric and were living at 12 Cross Street, a daughter, Florence, was born just before he left. He was never to see his family again.

Arthur was a signalman for the Midland Railway at Thornton and his job was to be reserved for him until his return. Jane was a weaver at Albion Mill. A local solicitor, Mr. Carr of Thornton-in-Craven offered to pay the rent on the Cross Street house while Arthur was away and Arthur's colleagues at Earby station clubbed together to contribute to Jane's maintenance.

The Boer War was a culmination of many years of dispute and conflict between the Boers and the British and all out war was finally declared by Kruger on 11th October 1899. This had seemed inevitable and the British began mobilising troops in anticipation, hence the call up of reservists.

Lance Sergeant Green was soon in the thick of the war but nevertheless was in regular correspondence with his wife Jane back in Earby. The Craven Herald published two of the letters shortly after news of Arthur Green's death was received in Earby. He died of enteric fever (typhoid) at the end of March 1900, which he probably contracted at the relief of Ladysmith. More British soldiers were to die of disease than were killed as a direct result of the fighting.

The article (Craven Herald 13th April 1900) is reproduced below

ANOTHER FALLEN HERO: FROM EARBY

Mrs. J A Green, of Cross Street Earby, has received the following letters from her husband, who has since died of enteric fever in South Africa, his death having been confirmed by the War Office who telegraphed to that effect last week. Green was attached to the York and Lancaster Regiment with Sir Charles Warren's Division, and the first letter describes his experiences at Spion Kop and the other the Relief of Ladysmith

*Springfield Camp
January 29th 1900
Dear Jennie,*

We are now back at Springfield where I wrote my last letter, and I can assure you we have had a terrible experience since then. We left here on the 18th, and after two days march we crossed the Upper Tugela River to attack the enemy. We at once came under their fire, and we were under fire until the 27th, ten days altogether. On the 20th we fought a battle with the Boers about 20 miles to the west of Ladysmith, and my company was the centre of the firing line. We made an advance from some very hilly and rocky ground, and we got close to their position and fixed bayonets to

charge them, but their fire was too much for us. We had to hold our ground till dark and then move to a better position, which we entrenched and defended until the 27th. During the time we were in the trench we had two night attacks. The Boers had no big guns with them on the 20th, but they soon got some, and they have been shelling us ever since with them. As I have laid in the trench shells have burst right over my back, and rifle bullets have whistled all around us. I have had five men shot in the section I am in charge of, and altogether, on the 20th, our regiment lost over 100 killed and wounded. Many times when the shells were bursting I thought my end had come, but I got used to it.

When the Boers fired their guns they seemed to kill some men every time. It is a terrible thing in this war, and I shall be glad when it is over. It is a far different thing being out here doing the fighting than reading about it at home. The worst of it is we don't know anything of what is going on elsewhere. Once during the night attack on the 20th I was so exhausted I could not run, and had to walk about 100 yards, and they didn't forget to have a few snap shots at me. The bullets fairly turned the ground up round my feet. You will be nervous if I tell you any more, so you must wait till I come home. Will you remember me to all at Earby and the railway men. It is very good of them to do as they are doing for you both at Earby and Bradford, and also the "Co-op".

We have only the suit of khaki clothes we stand in and we have not seen our great coats for a fortnight. We have had to lie down just where we happened to be; sometimes in long wet grass, wet through to the skin, and we had to wait for the sun to dry us in the morning. The last time we were in the trenches we had to lie on our stomachs for seven hours firing all the time in a heavy rain, to say nothing of bullets and shells flying about. I am pleased to say that I am as well as ever, except I have gone a lot thinner with the heavy marching.

I will write again soon.

From you're ever loving

ARTHUR

Ladysmith*

March 6th 1900

Dear Jennie

It is a long time since I wrote to you, but we have been working hard ever since, and we have got here at last. I received your letter and that from the Albion Shed yesterday. That is the first letter I have received since the one you sent me on the 22nd, so there must be the one with the stamps and another floating about Natal. The one you wrote on the 22nd. I got at Springfield Camp, where we retired to from Spion Kop. After a rest we went forward again, and crossed the Tugela at Potgeiters Drift where there was a days fighting. The first day our regiment was in action, we had one killed and 21 wounded. One or two of them have since died. It was an awful day. Sir C. Warren was in charge, and he retired to Springfield, where he left our regiment along with a few other regiments, but all the rest went right back to Frere. We strongly entrenched ourselves, and were prepared to receive any number of Boers, but we had left too much open ground for them to cross and we did not chance it after they came within sight on the hills in front.

Our cavalry went out to shift them, but they had a captain and six others taken prisoner, and one or two killed. Soon after that we got orders to march to Chieveley Camp. It was two days march, and it fairly jiggered me up. We stayed three days there. The next day we marched to the front to the right of Colenso, and went straight into action again. We were not many hours before we had them on the run, and I think they have been running ever since. The cavalry got through to Ladysmith the same night, and so it was relieved at our third attempt, but not before it was time. They had eaten all their horses. We had a day's rest at the line station in front of Ladysmith, and then marched through

Ladysmith to this camp, which is about two miles north. The next day I was so bad there was nothing for it but going sick, and I was sent into the hospital where I am writing this. The march and the heat have been too much for me. I am rather weak and feverish, but we are well looked after, and I shall soon be out again. I am a little better this morning.

It is a real rest I want, so you must not get to worrying about me. I was determined not to go in until I had seen Ladysmith relieved, but it finished me up doing it. I was very much surprised to have such a pleasant letter and such a beautiful present from the Albion Shed people. You must not dream of sending me the present here as I am sure it would never reach me. I thank them one and all from the bottom of my heart for their kindness and you must tell them so when you see them. We have got news this morning that our Brigade (the 11th) is moving in a day or two to Cape Town to join Lord Roberts, so that looks like no more fighting in Natal. If they go before I get well, I can't say where I shall get to, as their hospital goes with the Brigade.

Note - The siege of Ladysmith had been relieved on February 28th 1900.

References:-

Craven Herald 24th November 1899 and 13th April 1900

PROGRAMME

Summer Break.....

Please note—there will be no meetings June, July or August this year, so the next dates for your diary will be:-

Tuesday 16th September 2008

Dr. Gerry Fitzpatrick "The History of Rolls Royce"

Tuesday 21st October 2008

Dr. Ian Dewhirst MBE "History from Messages on Postcards"

**PRODUCED
& printed**

**by
Earby & District
Local History
Society.**

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 third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. (except for outside visits).

**ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
£5.00
UK £7.00
Overseas £11.00**

Contents:

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

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget this is your newsletter. We're always keen to hear from members, if only to put them in touch with relatives and friends from the past. Do 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

High Gate Farm
Gaylands Lane
Earby
BARNOLDSWICK
BB18 6JR

www.earby.org