

THE PARAGON

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MEMORIES of BRIGHTHOLMLEA

THE FARMHOUSE

The farmhouse has developed over the years to be a residence of some quality. We had a Yorkshire Range in the living kitchen. There was no heating in the scullery, and the dining-room had a front door opening directly outside. There was no entrance hall. We did have a good carpet square in this room, but the floor was red concrete as a base – very hard on the feet.

The ceilings had good beams in black oak and hooks were screwed into the ceiling beams, which were used when we were curing bacon flitches. These beams were second-hand. The doorways were not very high and many folk used to go home with bruises on their heads.

The paraffin lamps sometimes smoked. The soot marked the ceiling and walls. My mother would wallpaper the ceiling between Christmas cleaning and Spring cleaning. When choosing wallpaper, it never had to have straight lines or be too smooth, because our walls were not good and straight. The lounge was very snug. The piano was in there, and my mother was very fond of her precious time spent playing it for pleasure.

There were wooden shutters to the windows, so when they were closed and the curtains were shut, this acted as double-glazing, and was also a good blackout during the war.

A routine for housework was essential. Monday was washday, with ironing in the evening if the clothes were dry. Tuesday was upstairs day. Our bedroom had linoleum on the floor, so we had to get down on our hands and knees to dust and polish the whole area. We called it “squirming!” There was more dust in those days because all the blankets were pure wool and the mattresses feather ones. Not like today, now bed-making with duvets is so simple.

Baking day was a tremendous energy-consumer. All the bread was baked at home and in a panchion. Brown bread for Father added to Mum’s work, and fruit pies. Jams were home-made and when fruit was cheap, great quantities of two-pound baskets of strawberries came home in the milk van from Father’s milk-round.

I remember the day he came home, thinking the

world had come to an end when he heard that bread was being sold, ready-sliced, and beetroot could actually be bought ready-boiled!

Handicrafts were popular with country folk. My mother embroidered a wonderful white linen, drawn-threadwork bedspread and others in patchwork and Jacobean embroidery. We also did Italian quilting and made fitted bedspreads.

The wireless was developed in the 1930s. My grandparents had a cat’s whisker. Only one person could listen, putting on ear-phones, so we had to take it in turns. When use of an accumulator developed, we had to take it to the garage to be charged. How good it was when we were able to switch on a light and turn on a radio, never dreaming that one day we would be able to see images on a

screen in our own homes, much less that we would be able to watch one thing while recording another to watch later! How the world has changed within what seems a very short time!

Margaret Helliwell

...THE LOUNGE WAS VERY
SNUG. THE PIANO WAS IN
THERE...

FIRE PRECAUTIONS UNHEEDED

FROM WILLIS BURGIN’S DIARY:

I had been tramping for these miners a month when one day, going into the stall with my third empty wagon of the shift, I was alarmed to see the miners working at the coalface with naked lights. The tops of their Davy lamps

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FROM WALDERSHELF TO STOCKSBRIDGE

CHAPTER 2 BOLSTERSTONE MANOR

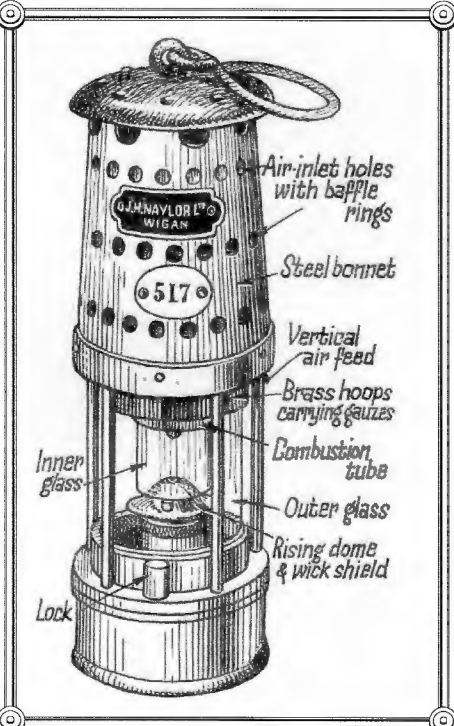


were missing. Without stopping to query why they were taking that risk, I quickly got a move on out of the stall with my wagon the instant it was full.

The number of trammers working on this level was eight, aged 14 to 17, and they all smoked when on the pit-top, except me. Every shift at the pit-top, most of the lads were searched for matches and cigarettes. But some of these lads had hiding places – in their clogs, trouser turnups, even in their snap tins. This particular day halfway through the shift I was sitting having

my snap with the two other trammers in the pass-by. Across the empty and full roads, where I was sitting,, hung a “brasked” cloth, nailed on a wooden bar, which was for ventilation. I could smell smoke, and the cloth was being used to waft away the smell.

One of the lads suddenly pushed his head through the cloth, whispering urgently, “Deputy!” The Deputy parted the cloth and made for the lad nearest me, searching him rather roughly, but without success. He then started on the other trammer, and I noticed that one of the lad’s hands was clenched behind him, trying to conceal a cigarette stub. Both the official and the trammer were standing in a pool of sludge and water. While the Deputy was going through the lad’s pockets, his clogs slipped and he sat down in the sludge, instinctively thrusting his hands down to save himself. The cig disappeared in the puddle and the Deputy was unable to find any evidence. Nobody talked.



In the 1797 Waldershef Valuation the area was described as “the district lying between Ewden Beck on the south, the Don river on the east, the river Porter or Little Don on the north and Thickwoods Brook on the west”. This comprises the ancient Manors of Midhope and Bolsterstone. We are looking at only Bolsterstone Manor, which corresponds almost exactly with the limits imposed on the Enumerators of the Census.

The geology is that of the South Yorkshire foothills of the Pennines, where Millstone Grit gives way to Coal-measure Sandstone, and outcrops of hard and soft coal, various clays, deposits of lead and associated minerals like Black Jack occurred.

The highest point, above Broomhead, is 1175 ft. above sea-level, and the lowest, at Deepcar, 450 ft. At one time it would be much more densely wooded, but by the 19th. Century, most of it had been cleared for cultivation, although like the rest of the Pennines, it would be among the last areas to be settled.

Documentary evidence of the early occupants of this area is found in the Rentals of the Earl of Shrewsbury 1581-1592, the 1651 Rental paid to Colonel Bright of the Parliamentary Army, and the 1672 Hearth Tax Returns levied by central government. In none of these was Stocks Bridge mentioned.

The 1802 Catalogue of Sale of the Bolsterstone Estate of Lord Melbourne described it as Freehold and tithe-free. The tenants were described as “Tenants -at-will , subject to all repairs, being allowed rough timber, and also liable to payment of Land-tax”. The out-goings of the Estate consisted of Land-tax on Woods in Hand – Bytholmes Wood, Nether Wood, Yewden Wood and Yewden Coppice – 108 acres in all, together with the Parochial Rates for the same. There was also a Free Farm Rent due to the Bishop of Durham.

The mineral assets of the Estate were listed as Coal, Potter’s Earth and “supposed” Lead. The Catalogue offered the inducement of Water supplying the Corn mill (at Deepcar) as “worthy of the attention of Speculators in a Manufacturing country.”

It also pointed out that the Church was a new building with land bequeathed for its support and repair. The total acreage was 3,577.2r.18p.

Again, there is no mention of Stocks Bridge, although the farm at Hawke Green must have been there by this date. A property in the name of tenant John Hawke was identified by J. Kenworthy as being at Bolsterstone.

The Estate was purchased by John Rimington, solicitor of Hillsborough, who in 1784 had married Mary , daughter of Christopher Wilson of Whigtwizzle, for £35,000. He raised the money by selling the Freehold to those tenants willing and

able to pay it. Others were evicted and their land sold on.

Brenda Duffield

PENISTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

I was especially interested in the article about the girls who were early scholars at Penistone Grammar School, as my mother was one of them.

She was Mary Creswick, who was born in June, 1896. She always showed great pride in telling me how she passed the County Minor exam and went to the school in 1908. I later learned that it was on September 16th., the start of the school year. Possibly she was among the first group of girls to be admitted, but she never mentioned that. Like other Scholarship children, her school fees were paid by the West Riding Education Authority. But her father said he could not afford any of the cost involved, so her uncle Spurley Hey paid all these extras and supported her. As for most girls at that time, it must have been a wonderful opportunity.

But after only one year, she was forced to leave because her father insisted she should go out to work to bring in money. No doubt he had financial problems, being a spring-maker at Fox's, but family stories blame beer! Mother was unhappy about this all her life, but it seems that she was not the only one to suffer in this way. It must have been more difficult to let children stay on at school in those days than it was in my day – and even more so than it is now.

When in Penistone Library some years ago, I found an Admittance Book for the school, which recorded much of what she told me. It said that she was number 138 in the book, daughter of Isaac Creswick of Bank View, Stocksbridge, and that she came from Stocksbridge National School; that she stayed for only four terms as a day scholar, with "total exemption from fees granted by Penistone Grammar School Trustees and tenable for a free place during the whole time at school."

The book lists many other scholars and I noted a few. These surnames are all in my Family Tree and they also show that it was not uncommon for pupils to stay only a year or so.

Elsie dau of Frank Crossley 1908-1909

George son of Wilson Moorhouse of Old Haywards,
grocer, 1909-1910

Ernest son of F. Creswick of Penistone, steelworker,
1910-1916

Harold son of B. Marsden of Thurgoland Bank 1910-
1913

Norman Froggatt

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BERTHA ELIZABETH BINNY?

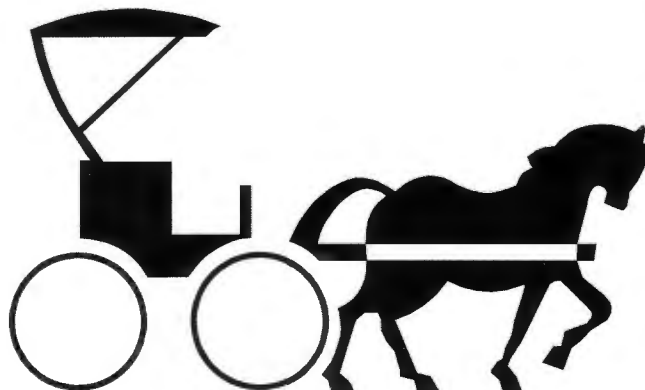
When Bertha Binny was growing up on a farm in the Hillsborough area in the 1880s, her grandfather worked at Hillsborough Barracks, either as a soldier or a civilian aide to the military. In later life one thing which stuck in her memory was that her grandfather could obtain cast-off trousers – black with a red stripe down the leg – as worn by soldiers. These were greatly prized for the making of peg-rugs, so the family could have a new rug in front of the fire for Christmas each year.

By the age of fourteen it was necessary for Bertha to begin to earn her own living and a place was found for her on a farm near Bolsterstone. We can guess that she would be taken with her little bit of luggage to meet the horse-bus at Hillsborough. It was probably a very apprehensive Bertha who faced the prospect of leaving her family and travelling alone to Bolsterstone.

The story goes that she got off the horse-bus before Deepcar in order to avoid having to pay the extra fare exacted at the Toll-bar at Deepcar. According to family legend, she was met there by a German lady who was the wife of the farmer for whom she was going to work. The huge cart-horse and high-sided wagon into which she was hauled for her journey to the farm made a lasting impression on her.

Little more is known about Bertha as a young girl. Later she married a Mr. Brown and then a Mr. Spooner. Do any readers know of a farm in the area where there was a German lady in the 1890s or early 1900s?

Related to Joan Banks by Jessie Aldous



STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT

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MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT THE LIBRARY, MANCHESTER ROAD, STOCKSBRIDGE AT 7.00 PM.

THE PARAGON

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MEETINGS

❖ PROGRAMME 2003 ❖

MARCH 13TH.

ROY COULDWELL:

RECOLLECTIONS OF A TOWN COUNCILLOR

APRIL 10TH.

JEFFREY TURNER:

THIS IS A BRASS BAND

MAY 8TH

DAVID HEY:

THE NORMAN LORDS OF SOUTH YORKS.

JUNE 12TH

KEN LOXLEY:

THE STORY OF EDWARD VII

JULY 10TH

RON CLAYTON:

SHEFFIELD CASTLE

AUGUST NO MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11TH

MARTIN OLIVE:

SHEFFIELD – SETTLEMENT TO CITY

OCTOBER 9TH

STEPHEN GAY:

THE WOODHEAD TRAIL

NOVEMBER 13TH

WENDY GOODHIND:

“COMERS-IN”- WHERE FROM?

SAT DECEMBER 13TH CHRISTMAS CAROL SUPPER

Designed & printed by Mike's DTP 0114 246 4200 mike@spick.co.uk

Our 2003 Program opened with a fanfare in January, when Mike Spick and his colleague Sylvia Pybus of the Local Studies Library took us through the History of the Census from Biblical times to the present day. Aided by the latest computerised presentation technology, they presented us with a clear description of how the system has been refined over time and entertained us with illustrations of amusing and intriguing details—was a young girl in Sheffield really called “Cinderella”?

Later that month some of us attended the Penistone History Group meeting, where we had been asked to give a talk. Betty McKay obliged with her presentation of The Skeletons under the Thickett Family Tree, aided by Albert on the slide projector and Wendy Goodhind on an overhead projector.

The A.G.M. in February was uneventful, with the present officers being returned unanimously. Detailed Minutes are not yet available. One new proposal was that we should have the Bolsterstone Glass returned from the Turner Museum and displayed in the vacant bookcase in Stocksbridge Library. Steps have already been taken to achieve this.

Later in February Brenda Duffield gave a talk at the Salvation Army in Victoria St. about the old buildings of our area, illustrated with slides.

STARTING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

THE SANDERSON FAMILY, a family history based on the diaries of Miriam Sanderson, which won a National Life Story Award in 1994.