



### FROM WALDERSHELF TO STOCKSBRIDGE

#### a *Local Study*

By Brenda Duffield

The Census of 1851 gave only seven households the address *Stocksbridge*.

Schedule 74 HELLIWELL: brothers George and John, their sister Sarah and baby nephew James. They were farmers and wheelwrights and occupied the premises, still standing, at the bottom of Nanny Hill.



Schedule 75 WEBSTER: Ann, widowed cokeburner, with employees Jonathan Swallow and Samuel Marsh.

Schedule 76 HAWKE: Jonathan, elderly shoemaker, his wife Hannah, unmarried daughter Mary and grandchildren Charles and Eliza Crawshaw.

Schedule 77 BROADHEAD: Hannah, elderly widowed shopkeeper.

Schedule 78 ASKEW: Edward, blacksmith, wife Elizabeth, daughter Ann, son Elijah and sister Charlotte; also apprentice Alfred Dawson.

Schedule 79 BATTY George, carpenter, his wife Hannah and four young daughters Ann, Amelia, Elizabeth and Emma.

Schedule 80 SPENCER: Minister (Ebenezer Chapel), his wife Elizabeth, blind son George, music teacher, his six pupils and servant Sarah Stanley.

George HELLIWELL died the following year, aged only 30, and his brother John became head of the household at the family farm at Watson House, Bracken Moor. Their nephew James was working in 1881 as an indoor farm servant at Hoyle House for Joseph Helliwell, no doubt a relative.

We have found no further record of Ann WEBSTER. She was elderly and presumably would be buried in her home parish of Silkstone. Her former employee Jonathan SWALLOW was by 1881 a labourer in the ironworks and was married with two sons in similar employment and living on Bacon Row, Wood Royd. Samuel MARSH had a grocer's shop in Stocksbridge in 1861, but reverted to the trade of coke burning and was living at the Clough in 1881.

Hannah HAWKE died in 1855, followed by her husband Jonathan in 1856. The area where they lived is still remembered as Hawke Green.

There is no sign of the CRAWSHAW children, although the Crawshaws were still at Langley Brook and Park House on Hunshelf.

Hannah BROADHEAD was from Sheffield and her death is not recorded here. She does not seem to have been connected with the local family.

Edward ASKEW died in April 1856 and by 1861 his son Elijah had taken over as Victualler and blacksmith at what we assume was the Coach and Horses. Edward's older son, Richard, was also working as a blacksmith at Green Moor Top in 1861 and 1871, and at L6w Laithes, Hunshelf, in 1881. Edward's daughter Ann married William Helliwell of Hunshelf in 1856. In 1861 they were living at Horner House, but by 1871 he was landlord of the Sportsman's Inn at Deepcar.

Elijah ASKEW's wife Mary died and he married Ann Bower. Some time between 1871 and 1881 they took over the tenancy of the Friendship Inn. There he was described as a Licensed Victualler with four daughters, two sons, Benjamin and Elijah Edward, and a stepson, Harry Bower.

Then Ann Askew died and in 1884 Elijah was married a third time, to Lydia, widow of John Grayson of Spink Hall. She was ten years older but survived him and passed property on to her first husband's nephew, John Grayson Lowood.

Hannah BATTY died in 1856, aged only 29, having at last produced a son, Thomas Edward, and a fifth daughter. George then married Harriet Askew, daughter of Edward, and in 1858 they named their new son Elijah. In 1861 he was a wheelwright and victualler at the Friendship Inn. But by 1871 George had died, leaving Harriet the widowed innkeeper.

Thomas E. BATTY was the licensed victualler in 1881 at the Bridge Hotel, Penistone, taking over the Friendship Inn in Stocksbridge when Elijah Askew left. It was he who built the new frontage dated 1902 and owned the field opposite that was used as football pitch, then market field, College and finally, supermarket.

George SPENCER, Independent minister, died in 1857. None of the family or music students were local people, so the household would break up. He was succeeded as Minister by Rev. Henry Robertshaw.

By 1881 only ELIJAH ASKEW was still living in the original hamlet of Stocks Bridge. By then the area designated Stocksbridge included the New Inn, the Coach and Horses, Hawke Green, Chapel Row, the Co-operative Stores, Water Lane, the Friendship Inn, Ives Yard, Farmers' Terrace, Button Row and Johnson Street. It was still regarded as a village within the Parish of Bolsterstone, but was now an Urban Sanitary District that included parts of Hunshelf.

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### France 1918

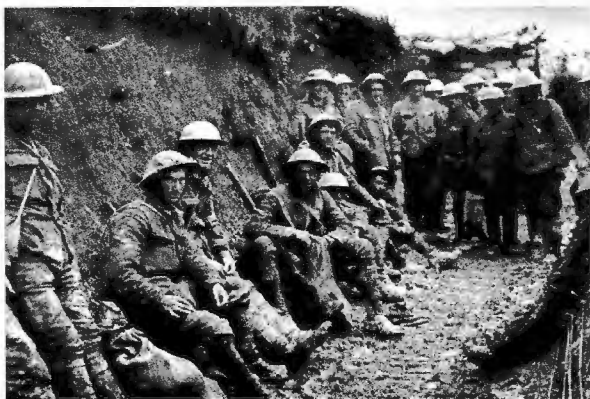
**N**ext morning, on moving out of the quarry, we came across 14 tanks; all had been put out of action by enemy shellfire or landmines during our last push forward. But the Germans were retreating so fast now that it took our troops all their time to keep up.

D Company was still on the march and we were surprised to see civilians still carrying on with their work in the villages and fields as we passed.

16<sup>th</sup> Section had to take up position with the four machine guns we were carrying on a ridge. It looked queer as we scrambled up the steep slope the upper parts of the trees looked as if they had been sliced off by the swipe of a giant axe.

There was a small Military cemetery near the top of the hill, each grave marked with a wooden cross and one of them had VC after the name.

We mounted the guns at 25-yard intervals on the ridge overlooking Maricourt, which was held by the Germans. As I went round checking the guns and the teams, I looked at my watch it was 2.00am and very dark. But as we got accustomed to the darkness we could see like a cat and missed naught. As I walked down a lane that was more like a ditch I could see tiny, glowing lights on the ground, which I had seen before they were glow worms.



My Section held this position for two days, without incident, and then we marched to Rancourt, north of Combles. There we had to dig trenches in clay, and every step was a slide.

German snipers were causing trouble and we had to keep our heads down. As daylight was breaking, one of the men, Corporal Turner, said, "Sergeant, I am going to root that bloody sniper out he is not far away!" An hour passed and I was getting worried about the soldier out in No man's land, when I saw him coming with a German slung over his shoulder, and I helped him slide his captive down into the trench. He looked like a schoolboy no more than 16 years old and probably one of the last to be called up. His hair was blonde and stood straight up like a brush. He was very scared and had a nasty wound in his thigh. Blood spurted out whenever his leg was moved. Turner bandaged him, trying at the same time to calm his fears. Half the Section gathered round, giving him chocolate and cigarettes. It was his youth that made us sorry for the lad and we packed him off to the Dressing Station with a smile on his face.

From notes on Minute Books 1958 to 1959 by Mike Kerrigan

**G**ames were only mentioned in a resolution not to allow Ladies to enter Competitions. Again, they were not to be admitted to the Club unaccompanied.

Apart from the use of the Hall for a C.D. exercise, the majority of functions were Concerts and Dances. The cost of artistes appearing was recorded each month, varying from £9.0.0 to £13.10.0 each.

Certain artistes were not to be engaged again because of their bad language and some were blacklisted (the Castle Rock Group was perhaps before their time!) but no reason was recorded for not wanting the Performing Dogs again.

A major concern of the Committee throughout this period was the conduct of people using the hall. A major disturbance at a Friday night Dance organised by the S.W.S.S. Dance Section, when a fight took place in the Bar and Refreshment Room, resulted in damage to a door panel and window and blood splashed on walls. Police were summoned but order restored before they arrived. The response of the Committee was to suspend all bookings by the Dance Section pending a guarantee that future dances would be properly supervised. They were to be reminded of the conditions of the Club's licence as to issue of tickets, a ban on admission of drunks, prostitutes, known thieves or anyone notorious.

After representations from the Executive Committee it was agreed that the Christmas Eve Dance could go ahead, under the supervision of an MC, and future bookings to be then reconsidered. Subsequently the programme was restored with the proviso that full conditions were met.

On the following Easter Monday J.G. had brought a non-member into the Club and they were using offensive language, then went outside and proceeded to fight, breaking a window in the Concert Hall toilets. J.G. was consequently suspended from membership until he could appear before the Committee. When he was again seen on the premises he was warned that he would be ejected if he appeared again.

A complaint about L.E. annoying other members one Saturday night was dealt with by a letter requiring him to appear before them at the next meeting. When he did so, he refused to offer any explanation for his conduct, or indeed to promise not to repeat it, so he was duly suspended for 3 months.

The Secretary was also instructed to write to P.C. about his annoying behaviour on Whit Sunday night. And J.T.C. was summoned before the Committee to clarify a dispute over a £1 note thrown to the band on Whit Sunday. He withdrew his accusation and his suspension was withdrawn but he was warned about his future behaviour.

The Committee reported on supplies of beverages to the Club, noting that although the price of Rum had been increased by 2/- a bottle, the Secretary had managed to get some at the old price of 36/- a dozen.

But they seem to have been a little naïve in reducing the price of beer and stout by 2d a pint in response to the 1959 Budget. As representatives of Hope & Anchor Breweries explained, the actual reduction was only £2/7/- a barrel and their reduction of 9d per dozen half-pint bottles would be in line with other breweries. They later ordered 6 dozen bottles of Carling Black Label lager at 11s.3d, to retail at 1s.2d. a bottle.

An application from Ben Shaw Ltd., requesting an interview for their representative was "left on the table".

A proposal that iced beer should be introduced in the summer was rejected on the grounds of the expense of refrigeration.

Provision of food over the Bar was becoming more popular. A small quantity of cheese, biscuits and pickled onions was ordered. But an offer from Kershaw's to provide seafood at weekends was also shelved.

### *Victory Club Records (continued)*

A particular milestone was reached in the summer of 1959 with a decision to acquire a Television set. After several meetings and enquiries it was resolved to hire a 21-inch set from the Co-operative Society at a weekly rent of 10/- plus £9 for an aerial. The Committee decided that to have a suitable table made by the Works joiners would be too expensive and they would enquire of the Co-op. The TV was to be set up on the Bar stage for a trial period of 3 months. Was this one of the earliest TV sets in Stocksbridge?

## THE MEMOIRS OF LILIAN BIRKHEAD 1896 - 1987

### GREENMOORSCHOOL

**N**ow came a period of satisfaction; the Infants were happy and progressing, leaving me with Juniors only, and I began to find great interest in planning a scheme of work and a timetable. Yes, we worked to a timetable in those days. Each subject, popular or not, had its allotted place on the timetable, and we were all taking the same subject at the same time. I do admire today's teachers who can use the less formal methods, and get results, and children have certainly become conditioned to do their own research. Of course, private study was encouraged in my day, but I am afraid I belonged to the "chalk and talk" era.

It was a pleasure to have material for Nature Study and Geography close by. We would go straight out of the playground and down the Trunce (for tadpoles) or on the Delph where the old quarries had been. The boys knew farm work processes at first hand. We did a large wall map of about one and a half miles of the village from the bottom of Well Hill to Hunshelf Hall and the boys supplied the local field names.

In those days the "11+" or County Minor Scholarship examination was in operation, and the success of a Junior School was often assessed by parents, rightly or wrongly, on the number of passes achieved. Homework was set, based mainly on the type of work set in these exams, which were taken at some school central to the Stocksbridge and Penistone area.

It was a dreadful ordeal for most children and the tension mounted as the date of the exam drew near. Later, in the 1940s to early 1950s, the papers were sent to the children's own school to lessen the strain of having to travel to a strange school. As this took place in February or March they sometimes had shocking journeys in wintry conditions. So, taking the tests on home ground was certainly an advantage. The papers were marked by Head teachers right or wrong - all answers supplied. There was no Composition or essay, so no individual judgment was needed. The papers were then sent to Wakefield (Central Education Authority for the West Riding), but the Head had some idea of how the children had fared. Nevertheless it was a great thrill the morning a slip of paper arrived to say that Colin Davies had passed to go to Penistone Grammar School, but great disappointment for those who had not.

I don't think that passing my own exams gave me as much pleasure. It gave me added prestige in the village too. Two others achieved a County Minor pass during my twelve years at Green Moor School, and Margaret Walton got on the reserve list, but no one dropped out, so nothing came of that. Three others of those who went to Stocksbridge Secondary Modern later won places at Barnsley Secondary Technical School.

My assistant teacher Miss Squires went to college after one year at Green Moor and an uncertificated teacher came from Elsecar Marjorie Henson. She had no ambition to go to college, but she was very good with the little ones. They were happy with her and made progress. But travelling was difficult for her she often missed her connection at Barnsley, making it a 3-hour journey. So she stayed for less than two years.

By that time numbers had dropped to only sixteen, so the "powers that be" decided, not surprisingly, that she should not be replaced, and we again became a one-teacher school. After a feeling of despair, I gradually got organised, but it meant hours of planning and preparation. I had my first experience of teaching Reading by "abaca" methods along with Look and Say. It was a great joy when those first pupils began to read, especially when Peter Sanderson said, "This is a good book, Miss Walton!" He was the first child I had taught to read from scratch and I felt that I had opened a door into the Realm of Literature for him.

At last a sympathetic Inspector came and spent most of the day observing our activities and my methods. What a day! But he gave a gratifying report and recommended an Assistant. I heard of Mrs. Addy, visited her successfully and she came the following week.

That was the happiest period of my time at Green Moor School. Mrs. Addy was a capable teacher of little ones, became a good friend, helpful with advice on administration. This was 1950-3. Then alas, numbers went down again and she had to leave. I had to carry on alone until my retirement in 1957. But after my previous experience I felt better prepared.

Each year we had a Parents' Afternoon, just before Christmas, with a short concert, followed by the inevitable cups of tea and biscuits, served by the children. Preparation for this, and the making of decorations, brightened up the dark winter days. Three times we had West Riding Specialists visit; Miss McCluskey for Physical Training, Mr. Mason, Musical Adviser and, most thrilling of all, the W.R. String Quartet to play at the Concert really memorable and enjoyable!

During these years we cultivated the most unattractive "bottom playground" with encouraging results. We tried a pool, but it was difficult to maintain, so it became a Sunken Garden, with individual plots around it. The W.R. sent us shrubs and fertiliser in fact they focussed more attention on the garden than I liked. Now it has been taken over by the Education Authority and consists of two well-kept lawns with a rose bed in each.

**Stocksbridge & District  
History Society**

Committee

**Chairman**

Roy Mallinson—Tel. 288 8362

**Secretary**

Basil Spooner—Tel 288 4456

**Treasurer**

Betty McKay—Tel 288 2269

**Archive Liaison**

Brenda Duffield—Tel. 288 2349

Meetings are normally held on the second  
Thursday of each month, at Christ Church  
Hall, Stocksbridge at 7.00p.m.

**SOCIETY NEWS**

We marked our Society's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Christmas Carol Supper with a presentation to Mike Spick, who has produced the Newsletter and its successor, the *Paragon* all these years. This 58<sup>th</sup> edition comes from new printers.

**PROGRAMME 2010**

AGM Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm.  
Christ Church Hall