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LIFE IN EWDEN VALLEY

by D.A. (name supplied)

I wonder whether any readers remember a man with only one hand, ploughing and milking cows in Ewden Valley? That man was my father, Albert Shaw. He lost his hand in an accident in Fox's Pit. I was about four at the time and can just remember the worry and upset that his accident caused for my mother and my three sisters at Jack House, where we lived. He was taken to the old Royal Infirmary and someone from the Works came to tell my mother what had happened. In those days, before the First World War, the only way for us to get to visit a patient in hospital was to walk from Jack House to the Blue Ball at Wharncliffe Side and then catch a bus. It was a hard time for my mother, who had the house and family and smallholding to look after as well. My father was a very practical man. Before his accident he had set up a pump in our kitchen, which pumped water straight from the stream. Prior to that, all our water had to be carried. As well as walking to and from his work at Fox's every day, he grew most of the fruit and vegetables that we needed, fattened a pig, kept hens and a few cows, which he and Mother milked. He also did a bit of ploughing with our pony. He

managed to guide the plough with his good hand while Mother led the pony. Mother was a hard worker. She baked all our bread and fed us well, without the help of modern convenience foods. I remember coming home from school to be greeted by the delicious smell of a meat and potato pie or some other tasty dish. We certainly did not go short. There was always a roast on Sunday, either from our own stock or

had to visit the shops in Stocksbridge. The walk back, up the hill and through the fields, with heavy shopping to carry, was a real trial of strength and endurance. The local shops which we visited mostly were Bolsterstone Co-op, the Village Post Office and the little shop opposite the Church, run by the Hollins family. I can remember having to go shopping in Stocksbridge after school. Different from the youngsters today, who are picked up by car from the school gate! I started school when I was four, in the Infants department at the Free School in Morehall Lane. Later I transferred with my class-mates to the village school. The teachers I remember were Miss Gill, Miss Turner and Miss Charlesworth. Mr. Garbutt was the Head when I left. The creation of Ewden Village, to accommodate the men who were building the dam and their families, brought changes to our lives. Transport became easier, because we were allowed to travel in the saloon carriage of the Waterworks train. The opening of the Ewden Village shop was a boon and there was social life in the valley, with concerts and dances. I attended those dances and I have been dancing ever since, right up to my 90th. Year. When I married, we lived with my parents at Jack House for two years and then we moved into one of the wooden bungalows in the village. These bungalows were considered modern and comfortable. We had a large living-room, two

Merry Xmas



from a local farmer. Although we were fairly self-sufficient, there was still shopping to be done, and this task fell to my sisters and me. People who know where Jack House is, on the far side of Ewden Valley, will realise that it was a long way to walk up to Bolsterstone, and further if we

bedrooms and a kitchen. There was no bathroom, instead we had a bath with a cover, which stood in the kitchen and had to be filled with water from the set-pot. The great luxury was that we did not have to go outside to the toilet, which was situated opposite the coal-house in the back porch. We were happy in Ewden Village, but decided to leave after one really bad winter of heavy snow, when my husband had to walk on the wall-tops to get through the fields to work at Fox's. We moved then into Stocksbridge, where I have lived ever since.

Told to Joan Banks April 1999

SANDTRAYS & MAYPOLES

Bolsterstone Endowed School An Appreciation Part 5

Bolsterstone Endowed School was rebuilt again in 1857 and included a house for the schoolmaster. Henry Hodgkinson's original stone was moved away from over the doorway and built into the wall facing the playground.

Education continued under James Harrop, affectionately known as 'Old Harrop', a brilliant writer and engraver, as well as John Trickett and James Holmes until 1869. Then, John Grayson, who lived at Spink Hall, left monies in his will to be paid to the trustees of the school, to be invested and the interest paid to the schoolmaster for the education of six boys and four girls from the age of ten to thirteen, in reading, writing, arithmetic and good manners. The children to reside in Bolsterstone. It must be remembered that children were leaving school at the age of ten and were fully expected to go to a full day's work. The six boys and four girls were considered fortunate to have the advantage of further education.

The school gave elementary education until 1885, when the authorities of the day complained about the 'want of a certified teacher and

BOLSTERSTONE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

THE NEW NATIONAL SCHOOL, BOLSTERSTONE,

Will be opened on Monday, October 11th,

UNDER THE ABLE SUPERINTENDENCE OF

MR. & MRS. JEFFERSON,

when Children will be taught, according to the MOST APPROVED METHODS, all the rudiments of an English Education, on the following

T E R M S :

READING, and WRITING ON SLATES, 2d. Per Week.

READING, and WRITING in Copy-books, 3d. „

READING, WRITING & ARITHMETIC, 4d. „

Those Girls who wish to learn Knitting, Plain Sewing, and Marking may do so under the superintendence of the Mistress, each afternoon, without any extra charge.

Boys who wish to learn Mensuration and Land Surveying, and Girls who wish to learn Fancy Worsted Work, &c. will be charged 5d. per week.

All weekly payments must be paid in advance, and those parents who wish to make quarterly arrangements for their children may do so by payment in advance of 2s., 3s., 4s., and 6s. per quarter of thirteen weeks respectively. In the case of three children from one family the oldest will be admitted at half price, and when four from the same family attend, the oldest will be admitted entirely free. There will be no charge for coals at present.

Spelling, Grammar, Geography, History, and Scriptural Instruction, will be given according to the capabilities of the several Classes.

Reading Books will be found for all who attend the School. The other Books must be found by the Children.

It is hoped that those Parents who have the welfare of their Children at heart, and are anxious to take advantage of the improved education, will do all in their power to assist both the Teachers and the Trustees to maintain good discipline and regularity of attendance.

N. B.---A NIGHT SCHOOL

will be opened Four Nights in the Week, on terms which may be known on application to the Master.

separate offices for boys and girls. Samuel Fox, as a gesture of goodwill, built an extra toilet and the cycle shed in the playground.

Up to this time, the endowment had been insufficient to provide for the demands of the authorities, but the school was very popular (being free) and had 140 children on the register. Knowing the

size of the school, children would have been sitting cheek to cheek, using slate and chalk and sandtrays.

In 1850 plans and work were going ahead to build a National School in the village on the site of the old quarry, where bull and bear fighting took place. The building of the school was made possible by the kind generosity of James Rimmington

Wilson and his family of Broomhead Hall, who gave money and land and also provided stone for the building. The total cost was £716 and some of this was raised by public subscription. Mention must be made of the Rev. Thomas Bell, incumbent at the time, for his part in dealing with the Education Authorities in Downing Street in London.

The school opened on Monday 11th October 1852 under the able superintendence of William Mitchell, who taught in the most approved methods, all the rudiments of an English education. The only drawback was the terms. Reading and writing on slates 2d per week, reading and writing on a copy book 3d per week, reading, writing and arithmetic 4d per week. Girls who wished to learn knitting, plain sewing and marking could do so without extra charge. Boys who wished to learn the art of measuring and land surveying and girls who wished to learn fancy worsted work would be charged 5d per week. All to be paid in advance.

These payments for the education of their children must have been a big blow to parents, remembering the little school down the hill where lessons were entirely free.

The New School sounded fine on paper, but there was strong opposition on the grounds that the Free School was open to all denominations, untrammelled by any creed, catechism or other sectarian formulas. At one meeting of the many held, there was an impassioned cry from a farm worker with five young children, who said he had nothing of his own to leave them, only that they would have a free education at the little school down the hill.

It was found that after a while, the National School was 'Languishing for want of pupils' and that an unacceptable situation was taking place, so it was decided to amalgamate the two schools. Samuel Fox, a trustee at the time, was instrumental in helping to bring this about.

In 1885-6 it was agreed by the Trustees of the Endowed School and the Manager of Trustees of the National School to meet to draw up the agreement and I quote, "It would make for a more advantageous working of the two

schools, the Endowed School and the National School and for better administration and extension of the benefits of the Endowed School - as an experiment in the first place - if the schools amalgamate - both schools to be free to all children to the benefit of the Endowed School, but others to pay fees as usual...The upper or National School for mixed older children, the Endowed School under a mistress helped by a monitress would be for infants."

J.C. Walton

The Turnpike Road - 1805

On August 10th 1804, under the pseudonym 'NIKAED', Samuel Deakin of Morehall wrote a lengthy letter to the *Sheffield Iris* pointing out, "...one line of direction of Turnpike Road which has not yet been attended to...I have been credibly informed that it is in contemplation to apply for an Act to make a turnpike from Sheffield through part of Wadsley to Oughtibridge, Wharncliffe-Side to end up at the end of Middop dale."

The letter had an immediate effect and stirred up action; for on the 29th August, 24 Gentlemen offered to subscribe £4,500 towards the cost of the undertaking, among whom were Wm. Payne, £1,000; Samuel Deakin, £500; Rev T Bland, £50; John Rimington, £1,000.

Events moved quickly and resulted in an Act of 10th July 1805 - "For making and keeping in repair a carriage road to branch out of the **SHEFFIELD AND PENISTONE TURNPIKE ROAD** in the township of Wadsley in the West Riding of the County of York to join the **DONCASTER AND SALTERSBROOK TURNPIKE** in the Township of Langsett in the West Riding."

Among the trustees were the Rev Stuart Corbett, Samuel Deakin the elder, Samuel Deakin junior and 6 other Deakins, Francis Fenton, Thos Grayson, John Grayson, Wm Payne, Thos Pearson, Samuel Peach, John Rimington, Ebenezer Rhodes, Samuel Roberts and W. Spencer Stanhope.

The road was to pass through Wadsley, Oughtibridge, Bytholmes and Deepcar to join the Saltersbrook road in Langsett and to be 11 miles 7

furlongs in length and a branch from Deepcar to near Thurlstone Bridge (which was never taken up). Any five trustees could act. The qualification to be a trustee shall be a yearly income of £50; an heir apparent to an estate of over £100 per annum or possessed of a real or personal estate value £1,000. The trustees shall first meet at the Angel Inn, Sheffield and there after as and when they think fit.

The Act contained 69 clauses and by clause 11 the following tolls were to be demanded: -

- Every horse drawn carriage 3d
- Every horse, Ox or other beast-drawn wagon, wain or cart, wheels of 6" width 3d
- do...do...do...less than 6" width . 4½d
- Every horse, mare, gelding mule or ass laden or unladen 1d
- Every bull, cow, ox, steer, heifer or calf ½d
- Every hog, pig, goat, sheep or lamb¼d

Tolls shall be taken only once a day and three tolls only between Wadsley and the junction with Mortimer's Road in Langsett.

No tolls to be taken for beasts drawing stones, bricks, lime, timber, trees, wood, gravel for the repair of roads or highways in the surrounding parishes: for hay, corn or straw or other produce from lands in the surrounding parishes: for corn, meal or flour ground in the surrounding parishes for home consumption: for coals for home consumption: or on animals that have been working in the district or coming from of going to the farrier.

Military purposes also had an exemption.

Mortgages on the credit of tolls were also authorised. Footpaths and causeways were not to be damaged and fines could be inflicted for so doing. Statute work on the road was authorised and two J.P.s shall authorise what is to be done. Fines and penalties could be inflicted on those who would not perform their statute work. Milestones and direction posts were to be erected.

The act shall commence 1st August 1805 and remain in force until 1st August 1826.

On 30th March 1823, the Act was extended for more effectively repairing the Wadsley Langsett

Turnpike and extending in two lines to form the Huddersfield and Woodhead Turnpike. In Upperthong, one way by Soughley and Cross and the other way by Newmill and Needleys in Honley.

to Sheffield and elsewhere in barrels or tin cans upon horses, mules and asses generally conducted by boys; who after delivering the milk, indulge in races and make a great noise rattling the cans and barrels which annoys passengers along the

besides numerous others in various parts of the country."

Among the Kenworthy Papers is a list of toll farmers for the 1805 road from 1840-1875.

Year	Contractor	£ per annum
1840	John Redfearn	£1405
1841	Jos Bower	£1805
1842	Jos Bower	£1300
1844	Bower & Co.	£1300
1845	do do	£1400
1846 to 48	do do	£1250
1849 to 51	do do	£1200
1852 to 54	Bower & Co	£1350
1855 to 57	Joshua Bower	£1460
1858 to 60	Joshua Bower	£1580
1861 to 63	Thos Bower	£1590
1866 to 68	Thos Bower	£1615
1869 to 71	Thos Bower	£1620
1872 to 75	Thos Bower	£1625

On 4th July 1838, the previous Acts were repealed so far as Langsett and Wadsley were concerned and re-enacted, giving powers to extend the road near Moorfields, Sheffield.

A new line was to be made from the milestone in Wadsley and ending at Roscoe Place at the north end of Moorfields, Sheffield, and for widening Hill Bridge over the river Loxley.

Existing tollgates may continue and others [be] erected. Roads made unnecessary by the new line may be stopped up after proper notice, leave to appeal against closure is given.

A clause against milk-boys was included which followed a pattern. The following clause is included in the Sheffield - Halifax Road Act 23 May 1817.

"Quantities of milk are conveyed

roads. Accidents have already happened near Sheffield. For the easy detection of such nuisances milk carriers must have the names of the owners fixed to the pack saddle or other conspicuous part in large legible letters - penalty for omission not to exceed 40/- (40 shillings) The same penalty for those who indulge in racing and committing a noise nuisance. A 40/- fine was also imposed on those who depasture animals on the roadside verges."

In the 1820's tolls were fetching about £150, by the 1840's the price had increased considerably. By then professional toll farmers had become common. The largest lessee in the West Riding was Joshua Bowen (1773-1855), a Hunslett glass manufacturer and colliery owner. He leased many gates in Yorkshire and it was claimed that he had *"at one time nearly all the tolls between Leeds and London, some in Hants, Dorset and Wilts,*

The Trust was dissolved in 1875 when the turnpike was taken over by other authorities. It paid dividends from 3½% to 7%.

The trustees paid in places about £40 per acre for land they bought to make the road. The toll bars at Unsliven Bridge and Deepcar were chain or catchbars, those at Midhope, Middlewood and Oughtibridge were gates or main road bars.

References: - A copy of the Act is to be found in the Crewe Papers CM1642 (Sheffield Archives) and also at 346.1SQ - Acts of Parliament Volume 5 (Local Studies) Kenworthy Papers - Sheffield Archives

W.E. Spencer.

Me - My Family Tree and a visit to the Public Record Office at Kew.

Mindful of perhaps having wasted opportunities on my first visit to other Archives, I studied carefully the 'New to Kew' publication, which gave me good information about what to expect. Knowing the journey time out to Kew from central London, I planned to spend the day searching for some Army records, and then if there were time to look at some records relating to Nurses going out to the Crimea in 1854.

On arrival at the PRO you have to be issued with a Readers Card and so need to produce some documentation with your signature on. Cards are issued straight away and then its onto the locker room to deposit bags and coats.

Because it is possible to access more original documents here than at the FRC the procedures are more rigorous. Taking with you your pencils, notebook, locker key (and a note of its number) , some cash for photocopying and your specs, you can move up to the research area. Any papers you carry are checked en route, and you need to use your Readers Card to swipe your way through the barrier. Inevitably you get it the wrong way up and round, but the security staff are wonderfully patient. That was just the start of the high tech process.

To find the records that you want to access you need to find their exact reference code and number. The staff on the information desk will point you in the right direction - all the records seem to be indexed and its just a matter of getting into the right set. With that information you can request up to three documents. For a paper and pencil person like me this was most impressive. To make your request, first of all you have to collect a Bleeper and its associated seat number in the Document reading room. The Bleeper acts as a Pager and will let you know when and where the documents you order are

waiting for collection. Then you find a computer terminal and key in the relevant information. DO NOT BE PUT OFF - the whole system is set up so that you can easily follow the procedure and learn to be self sufficient. You don't need to understand computers! Documents seem to take about 20 minutes to locate so you can wander round and read other information sheets - watch the information video or go for a drink in the restaurant on the ground floor. When your documents are ready, off goes the bleeper and off you go to wherever it indicates. The only difficult thing is when you are in a busy area and there are beepers screeching all round you!

It seems that most documents are presented in the box in which they are stored, and some of these are quite hefty. I had very few details on which to base my request for my Great Grandfather's Army discharge papers, apart from his date of birth and more importantly the Corps he belonged to. This I had gained from my Grandfather's birth certificate. I ordered two boxes of Army discharge papers to look at - fortunately stored in alphabetical order. In the first box I didn't find Great Grandfather but I did find one of his sons - who lasted just 52 days and was then discharged as unsuitable! We didn't know about that! The second box did contain what I was looking for. There were the original records - rather delicate - of his Army service from 1870 to 1891. There was nothing special about him - he didn't do anything unusual or meritorious but there were all the details. A description of him when he signed on at 19 years of age; a record of the children born and died; his three reprimands for being drunk; his medical treatment; his one campaign - where he seemed to be on sick pay most of the time and his times at home in Aldershot and overseas. All there in one set of records.

Photocopying these records was done by one of the staff - it wasn't the cheapest system but was extremely efficient and well worth taking advantage of. I then ordered the pay books for the time he spent on campaign and thus was able to discover more about his time in the

Egypt Campaign.

Medal records are on Microfilm and these were easily accessed in the Micro film reading room. Again a bit more information to add to the rest.

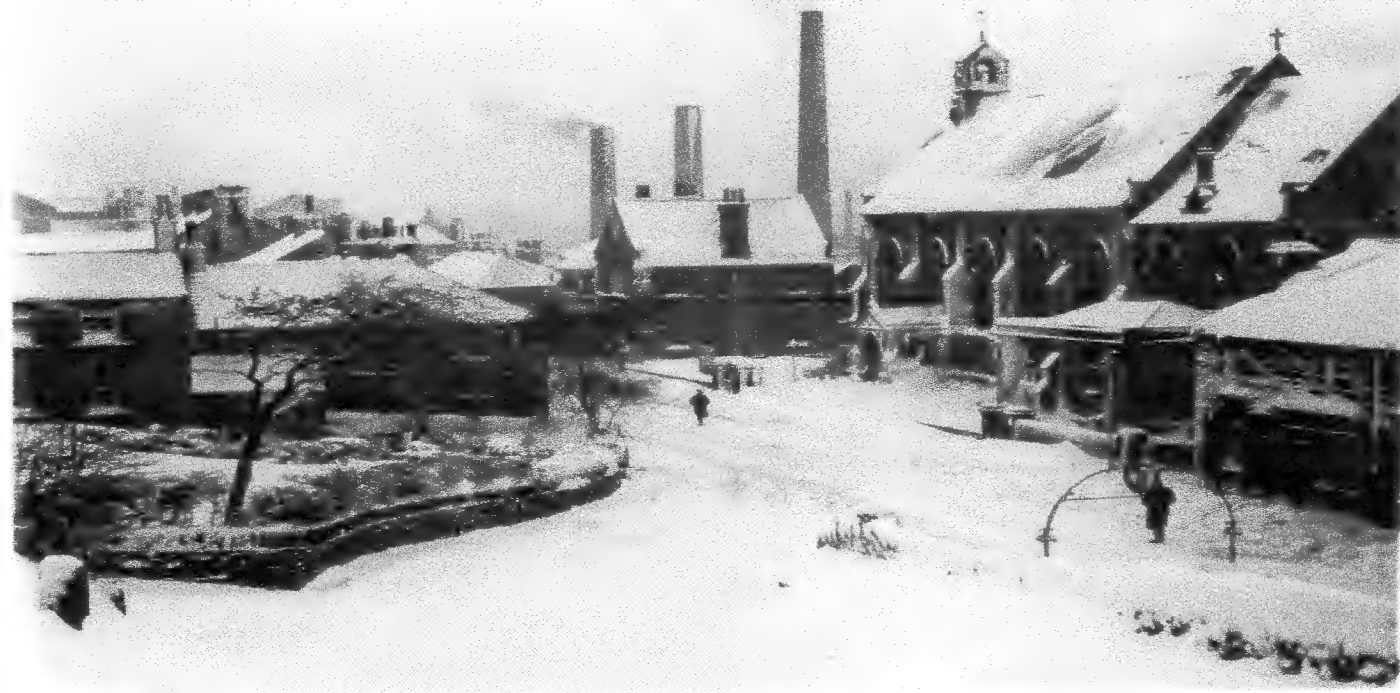
Not only did I do all this, but I had time to look in the box holding applications from those hoping to join Miss Nightingale in Scutari. No luck there, but I didn't really expect to find anything.

Going down to the restaurant clutching my envelope of photocopies was enough reward for one day. 'You found someone then' called the Security Guard with a big smile, as I came down the stairs on the way out. This seemed to me to sum up the attitude of all the staff. Certainly they weren't going to do the searching for you, but they were there to direct you through the system which has been carefully prepared to make things as easy as possible for even the most inexperienced researcher.

I'm just sorry that I can't find any pressing reason to spend another day there - well not at the moment anyway.

Wendy Goodhind





AFTER 20 INCH SNOWFALL

1.15 PM 5.2.1947

Nanny Hill - 5th February 1947

This remarkable picture was taken after 20 inches of snowfall

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EACH MONTH, AT THE LIBRARY,
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JANUARY 13TH

**HISTORY OF STOCKSBRIDGE WORKS
AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY - ERIC
BAXTER**

FEBRUARY 10TH

A G M & ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

MARCH 9TH

**HISTORY OF HILLSBOROUGH PARK -
ANDY ATKINSON**

APRIL 13TH

**THE BOTANICAL GARDENS, PAST,
PRESENT & FUTURE - AVRIL
CRITCHLEY**

**MAY 11TH
HISTORY OF SHEFFIELD CINEMAS
CLIFFORD SHAW**

**JUNE 8TH
THE WORTLEYS: AN ANCIENT
YORKSHIRE FAMILY - PHYLLIS
CROSSLAND**

**SUNDAY JULY 9TH
AFTERNOON VISIT TO THE
BOTANICAL GARDENS**

**AUGUST
NO MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 14TH
FOR VALOUR: THE STORY OF THE
VICTORIA CROSS - KEN LOXLEY**

**OCTOBER 12TH
ROYAL MAIL PART II - BASIL
SPOONER**

**NOVEMBER 9TH
AFTERNOON VISIT TO THE
TURNER GLASS MUSEUM**

**DECEMBER 9TH
SATURDAY
CAROL SUPPER**