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OPENING OF THE "LOWOOD" INSTITUTE, DEEPCAR.



THE EARL OF WHARNCLIFFE ON LABOUR AGITATIONS

"The Earl of Wharncliffe, accompanied by the Countess, yesterday afternoon drove from his residence, Wortley Hall, to Deepcar, for the purpose of opening the workmen's institute which has been erected there at the expense of Mr. J.G. Lowood.

Up till a year or two ago the colliery and gannister works at Deepcar were the sole property of Mr. Lowood, but he converted his business into a limited company concern, taking the position of managing director. He, however, had long cherished a desire to provide a club for his workmen, and notwithstanding the financial change alluded to the last year commenced to carry out his wish.

The site chosen was an excellent one, being situated on the road leading to the railway station, and close to the works. Sufficient ground was purchased to admit not only of the erection of the club, or institute, as it is styled, but of the forming of a bowling green and skittle alley at the back.

Mr. Lowood left the task of planning the building to his son-in-law, Mr. W.J. Gardner (formerly a leading official in the department of the Sheffield Borough Surveyor) and that this was a wise step will be admitted by all who visited the institute yesterday.

The building is everything it should be - solid, good looking, and most conveniently arranged. The style of architecture is old English domestic, and there are two storeys. Upon the

ground floor are a billiard room (already provided with two tables) a smoke and committee room, and caretakers premises, so fitted up as to be capable of catering for large gatherings. Upstairs is a lecture and a reading room, which, when occasion needs (as was the case yesterday) can be converted into one. The total cost of the building and furnishing the institute is £1500, and this is defrayed entirely by Mr. Lowood.

The contractors have been Messes. Joseph Mastin and sons, of Cavendish street, Sheffield; the woodwork was entrusted to Mr. J. Esherby, Spring street; Messes. Hodkin and Jones, of Bramall lane, have done the plastering work; Mr. J.B. Corrie of Carver street, had charge of the plumbing and glazing, and Messes. Johnson and Appleyards have provided the furniture.

The opening ceremony took place at half past three, but nearly an hour before that time there was a large crowd of workmen assembled on the road outside the institute, and they were entertained by the Stocksbridge New Band.

The Earl and Countess of Wharncliffe (with whom rode the Rev. S. Greenwood, vicar of Wortley) were cheered on their arrival, and after viewing the lower rooms they ascended to the lecture hall, where the inaugurating speeches were to be delivered.

Among those who were assembled were:

Mr. and Mrs. Lowood, the Mayor and Mayoress of Sheffield, Sir William Leng, Mr. S. Roberts (a director of the company) and Mrs. Roberts, Miss Belfitt (daughter of the Master Cutler), Mr. Macro Wilson (clerk to the Cutlers' Company) and Mrs. Wilson, the Rev. W. R. Wilson (vicar of Bolsterstone) and Mrs. Wilson, the Rev. M. C. Potts (curate-in-charge, Deepcar).

Mr. LOWOOD, on rising to propose that the Earl of Wharncliffe act as Chairman, was greeted with loud applause. The proposition was unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN, who was warmly welcomed, said that to be present on such an occasion was one of the most gratifying experiences he had ever had. It seemed that he had, as tenant of the works, a gentleman who thoroughly recognised his responsibilities to those whom he employed. It was not everybody who had the desire and means to provide such an institute as this. The premises seemed admirably suited for the purposes intended; there were good rooms in which they could amuse themselves, and others where they might gain instruction. He rather fancied that those in which amusement could be obtained would be best filled, but the men who went to the rooms set apart for instruction would derive the most benefit. He was glad to know the institution was to be both unsectarian and non-political.

But the fact that it was a non-political institute did not prevent him from saying a few words of caution to them upon the present state of affairs.

There was a very important movement going on in England that he thought he was justified in alluding to, because many of those present constituted a portion, it might be only a small portion of those who were working for the benefit of themselves and also for the prosperity of the kingdom. Undoubtedly the power in the elections now rested entirely with the working classes. The movement he alluded to was on the part of the miners. Now coal was the main factor in our industries, and it might get so dear that it would not be worthwhile for some manufacturers to carry on their business. He did not say it would, but still he wished to point out what an important factor coal was.

One of the most sensitive of things in this world was trade; they knew very well it took little to divert trade from one place to another, but it took considerable time to regain it. He mentioned this matter to show how very serious it was to stop the progress of trade.

Among the various subjects to be dealt with at the institute were science, literature and music. Of course there would be a brass band, because where ever there was a village there was a brass band. (Laughter)

He hoped the committee would arrange for lectures on political economy, because that was a subject on which people were excessively blind and supremely ignorant. He was sure that the more the principles of political economy were understood the less chance would there be of disasters happening to trade such as that now seen in Durham.

It should be recollected that there were a variety of tyrannies. Hundreds of years ago there was the tyranny of the King and his great nobles and the tyranny of the Church. About 150 years ago there was the tyranny of wealthy men, who owned boroughs. But the tyranny was now going away from these classes, and was getting upon a much larger scale and influencing a vast number of people. He warned the assembly that there might come a despotism, not by the rich or highly placed, and not by the Crown or Church, which would be harder and more grinding than any experienced in this country.

Recently in London he was asked 'what was the good of giving miners an Eight Hours Bill if they could stop a week when they wanted?' He did not know how to answer the question, and he would leave it with his listeners. (Laughter)

People had an idea in this country that the government could do a good deal about trade, but he was aware that they could not do much. True, our Consuls had been stimulated to efforts in the direction of helping British trade, but a great deal more could be done by manufacturers adapting themselves to the wants of foreign markets. He believed that the loss in trade with foreign markets this country had sustained was due to our manufacturers not laying themselves out specially for the requirements of the foreign customers.

His Lordship went on to urge the importance of studying English history, and to express the hope that the advantages of the institute would be taken full advantage of. He remarked that those who had any influence over the working classes had never failed to impress upon them not only the desirability of self-cultivation but of thrift. He hoped the efforts of Mr. Lowood would be thoroughly appreciated, and the institute would prove a success in every way. (Applause.)

The MAYOR spoke in high terms of the construction of the institute, and afterwards went on to refer to the importance of our coal supplies. He mentioned that to make a single armour

plate 24 tons were altogether required. He was of (the) opinion that the recent disturbance of coal prices had had a prejudicial effect on the trade of the country generally, and he hoped that in future wiser counsels would prevail amongst both coal owners and miners. With regard to Mr Lowood's generosity he remarked that it was gratifying to see such a kindly, indulgent feeling between employer and employed.

Sir W. M. LENG urged the working men present to utilise the advantages which the institute would afford, and expressed his gratification at this evidence of Mr. Lowood's sympathy with them.

Mr. Lowood then presented to the hon. secretary of the institute a lease of the premises for 50 years, at the nominal rent of 1 shilling per annum. He expressed the hope that the workmen would make the best possible use of the institute, and stated his intention to do something towards providing a library. (Applause.)

Mr. BETT, on behalf of the workmen of the company, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Lowood for his magnificent gift.

Mr. HUDSON, another workman, seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. MILLER (?) and Mr. SHIPMAN, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lowood having briefly replied, Mr. S. ROBERTS moved a vote of thanks to the Earl of Whamcliffe.

The Rev. W.R. WILSON, in seconding the motion, bore testimony to the deep interest which the earl and countess took in the welfare of the inhabitants of the district.

The vote was most heartily given.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging it, said he hoped the good example Mr. Lowood had set would be followed by other manufacturers. He advised those who would use the institute to be temperate in all things, and said he trusted that the words he had addressed to them would bear good fruit, and that they would feel that whatever their employers said and did was for their good and for the best.

The proceedings then terminated. Later on there was a tea and entertainment, and today the billiard tables are to be opened by two Sheffield gentlemen Mr. Mussabini and Mr. Ridings.



Editor's Note. - The 1892 'tyranny' talked about in the Earl's address was the news of the general strike by the miners in the Durham coalfield and the march through Durham by all the miners with their demands, which was to become the annual event of the Durham Miners Gala.

JOHN HOLLING MEMOIRES

Part 6 – More Local People and Businesses

The shop at Chapel House was operated by Mr. Chapman Whitworth. I seem to forget which was the first, but both were for many years, immediately day to day acquaintances. Mr. Chapman, a kindly man, taught me in early Sunday School. His wife was a friend of Mother and Grandma Hollings. Mr Whitworth and his wife and family, who kept the shop, were also Chapel caretakers, and were greatly respected. Their son Albert was the organist for many years and later became noted in the Sheffield area for his talents. Another son, Alec, was for many years a bosom pal of mine. I used to help him take the papers out sometimes and also sweep up and fire up the boiler at the Chapel. I remember we mixed wet tea leaves with sawdust after any Annual Tea before brushing the floor later in the evening. This mixture was scattered over the large school room floor and prevented dust from rising on to the chairs, tables etc., and so eased the man or woman who followed on "Dusting".



The next house and shop was "Cobbler Senior's" and he, his wife and daughter Martha, were daily in my life. Mrs. Senior died about 20 years ago, but Mr. Senior and I had a daily chat and talk about things political, historical and never dull topics. He retired about 5 years ago, and was buried at Netherfield where I saw him laid to rest this spring (1959). He was of Penistone parentage, and was noted for handmade footwear. He measured your feet, and my working boots would last many winters keeping out the slush and brine of the snowy weather. When he retired, he converted his whole shop and workshop into living accommodation so that he could live on a level with the Main Turnpike, instead of the downstairs back kitchen which had not too much light. Martha still expects me to go and have a chat every time I pass the door, as I was wont to do, until her father's death.

You will wonder why I have dwelt on this John Senior. It is because, since my earliest days, with his shop being at the top of Chapel Hill, I have seen him almost daily at his "last", hammering and shaping the leather, going in to talk to him, even as a young man, on gardening, the two World Wars, and some special Government Measure or political disquietude. Then again he would see me from my infancy up to his bed taking, going the many times a week to the Chapel. (I never once saw him in the place of Worship all his life). Then again, with my father farming "Ellencliffe", I should be in his sight right from our shop to proceed down Chapel Hill and walking up the fields to our farm, and later, up to the time of Father vacating "Ellencliffe", he would see me going backwards and forwards with horse and cart, to and from the farm each day.

The next I remember, but not until about the time of school

leaving (13), in the same vicinity was Redfeams House and Paint Shop, and next to it J.W.Hinchliffe (Printers and Shop). Mr. Redfeam was always a most reticent man, and apart from his Master Painting which was undeniable, I cannot say much more. Mr J.W. Hinchliffe was a gentleman of calm and collective demeanour, a pleasure to be in his presence, but only very occasionally did he seem to find time to put his foot on the Main Highway and enjoy the natural elements. His wife and daughter Irene, we called her "Rene", were members, along with myself when I was 21, of Dr. Robertshaw's many choirs. His two sons, Kenneth and Donald, later carried on the business. They were also musical, Kenneth a good bass and Donald a teacher of the Pianoforte.

The next shop was a Fent and Milliners and Drapers, adjoining my school-masters house. This shop was operated by a Miss Gamham, the daughter of Mr. Gamham who taught me at Sunday School sometimes. This shop was later taken over by Mrs. Fred Hill who carried on the business in addition to some outfitting requirements etc. This shop was later taken over by the General Post Office and converted into the "Telephone Exchange" operated by Miss Esther Ellen Oakley, who was a friend of our family and a member of our Chapel in Old Haywoods.

Years later this "Exchange" was put into the Property of Mr. David Brearley and Sons, "Stonemasons", 124 Manchester Road, Deepcar, across by the "Ivy Yard". Miss Oakley managed the "Exchange" here, and it was whilst living here, as sole operator, that she married Mr George Elsam, a Bible Class Teacher and former manager of the "Bessamer" of Messrs Samuel Fox and Co Limited. Mrs. Elsam was retired on completion of the new Automatic Telephone Exchange built by Laurence Lindley in the corner of "Herbert's Field" across by "Sheffield Row", and across by Mrs. John Long's milliners shop. This field has now been entirely built on by the Stocksbridge Urban District Council, namely "Holling Croft" with Old Peoples Flats. Mr. Herbert's house and garden in Back lane was retained by his successors or executors, in the south west corner of the farmers field, as a private property. It is rather interesting, and perhaps of some significance, that the surname "Herbert" was frequently prominent in business ventures and title deeds of land in the early days of my youth.

The next shop was Barber Brooke's across from the Church School, Bocking Hill. I remember they had a son "Alec Brookes", who, one summer's evening, had a head on collision with my brother Haydn near Wood Willows. Haydn and Alec were riding their bicycles, going in opposite directions, and met head on. Haydn was brought home on a gate taken from the road-side, and I, as a lad, had to go and tell my father and mother, who were at choir practice, about it. I remember Haydn lying on the settle we had alongside the kitchen wall, and when Haydn's pal Willie Bramwell saw him, he said "Poor Owd Haydn". It is sad to relate that Willie, the son of W. Bramwell the Boot Man, was one of the Chapel lads who died during the 1914-1918 War. My brother Haydn broke his nose on that occasion, and has not been able to use all his nasal faculties since. It may be interesting to say that Haydn (today 1959) has complained that he cannot hear me talking to him whilst sat on the coal delivery lorry, and has to see a Specialist next week. It has been developing by degrees for two years (it may have some connection with the nose facial muscle actions and cavities over the last 50 years (could be?). This Alec Brookes continued in his father's business, and was also a noted Amateur Landscape Painter. He has now left the District, but his paintings are worthy of recognition, if only by my humble self, who watched him painting the "Clock Tower and Grounds". He did several of these paintings and the insignia of Stocksbridge such as "Chains of Office" - Local Government and other associations

of the district, are the outcome of the splendid coloured etchings and drawings, superimposed now on precious metals etc. and letter heads and correspondence etc.



Next was a whole row of House /Shop / Businesses, across from the bottom of Bocking Hill and across from the Church School (Jackson Row). The first was Mrs. Herbert, a nice old lady who sold sweets and attended our Chapel. The next to hers was Ernest Jackson's fruit shop He kept his horse and dray in wooden buildings where the car park is now situated. Mr. Jackson had a very fine moustache, as many had in my school-days. I remember him as Captain of the Fire Brigade, with his gleaming large brass helmet. All the firemen had these helmets and epaulettes on their jackets. I remember how wonderful they all looked, clinging to the brass rail which encircled the fire engine as it raced down the main road to fires which were mostly at the Paper Mill of P. Dixons and Sons. The Fire engine was pulled by two horses, if the fire was on the main road, and the horses were usually G.C. Knowles, although I have seen on occasions other tradespeoples' horses taking the engine. It may be that those who got there first (Town Hall) got the job with their horses.

Mr. E. Jackson became well known to me as I grew up, for I joined the "Tradesmans Association" in my twentieth year. He was the Treasurer right up to his death and many happy times were spent in his older company. His youngest son Albert still carries on some business.

The next was "Clogger Jacksons" and in those days a throng business. He worked in an apron and was a well built man. His wife was a nice lady with a different dialect twang in her voice to

those we heard usually. The house and shop at the end, next to the Stocksbridge Church, was a sweet shop kept by two old ladies "Doilies" Hague, dressed in complete somber black, with expressions of just being alive, but almost dead. They also cleaned the church school properties. Across the road, as now, was the "New Inn". This was belonging to Mr. Addy. Mr. Jim Addy, his son, was the school-master, after Mr. Swallow, at the church school, and greatly respected. He was tall, and died a few years ago after long service there.



My father, in 1889, lived and commenced his coal business at the other end of "Addy" Row (Bank House). His stabling was at the back of the row, next to Harry Gaunt's stabling and Butcher Hague's stabling and Slaughter House farther on. My father left there to his newly built premises in Old Haywoods in 1901, and I was born soon after they removed. Butcher Hague I knew, because of walking to and from "Jones's School". I remember as a boy the sad news of him catching from a beast the dread Anthrax which was an awful death.

I remember the old Town Hall buildings as a boy. These were like a row of cottages made into offices parallel with Smithy Hill, and a large yard up to the church boundary. I remember the policeman living in the second doored cottage facing near the top of Smithy Hill. Later I remember D. Brearley and Sons almost completely rebuild the old structure to its present design.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 2016

May 12th	Annual General Meeting	
June 9th	A Street Detective In Sheffield	Mike Spick
July 7th	Members Annual Outing this year to Saltaire.	
July 14th	A History Society Presentation	

Meetings take place in the Christ Church Meeting Room (Under Croft) starting at 7.00pm Prompt

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