

A few of my Life's activities by Cecil R. Snowden

Born in Kildwick on 19th September 1878 & lived in the Village all my life. Worked as a Monumental Mason for Messrs. John Barritt's for 17 years. Was appointed Sub. Postmaster on the resignation of Miss Holmes on 1st March 1911 & held the position for 26½ years then retired to Croft Nook on 12th October 1937, along with the position of Sub Postmaster developed the business of Newsagent which had been carried on by my late Mother for a number of years, also opened out as a Stationer, Tobacconist & China Dealer & worked up a successful business.



Fig 1: Cecil (centre) and Louisa Snowden outside the Kildwick Post Office, with an unknown postman. Photograph taken in 1911. The building, on Kildwick Corner, is now a private house.

Connected with Farnhill Primitive Methodist & later the Methodist Church all my life, a member of the Choir in the Old Chapel in Main Street, Farnhill long before the present premises were built, held most of the Offices open to a lay man, Secretary of a very active Band of Hope for a long number of years, Sunday School Teacher, Assistant School Secy, Superintendent for a long period & Sunday School Treasurer for 38 years, Society Steward & a Trustee for the Church & Manse, Secy. For the Committee which installed the New Organ in the Church after the receipt of a gift of £100 from Andrew Carnegie towards the cost. On relinquishing my Offices owing to health reasons received the proud gift of a Gold Watch bearing the following inscription "Presented to Cecil R. Snowden by the Old Scholars of the Farnhill Methodist Sunday School in appreciation of his 53 years of Service to School & Church."

Also took an active part in the welfare of the Village, for 17 years Treasurer to the Kildwick Street Lighting Inspectors, represented Kildwick Township on the Skipton Rural District Council for 11 years, during the late War carried out the duties of Billeting Officer & Salvage Warden for Kildwick Township, interesting to recall that as a young lad was the first person to carry out the duties of Lamplighter of Street Lamps which was quite an innovation this would be about the year 1892.

Married at Farnhill Chapel by the Rev. Johnstone Dodd on 26th April 1902 to Louisa, 3rd daughter of the late Mr & Mrs John Ellis who formerly came from Baildon to run a portion of Airedale Mill and later the Shed at Farnhill Mill, she was actively connected with the Moravian cause at Baildon and immediately took an active part in the Primitive Methodist cause on coming to Farnhill, she was a Sunday School Teacher, a member of the Choir & took a great interest in the Women's section of the Church, in later years as Stewards wife her Hospitality to the various Preachers was greatly appreciated.

They had one Son who died in infancy.



Fig 2: Cecil (seated) and Louisa (far right) collecting water from a bowser outside Kildwick School during a drought (1950 ?).