

## Historical information from local almanacs

In the days before the internet, almanacs – magazines printed regularly, typically annually – were provided useful information on specific subjects to their readers. Well known almanacs, such as “Old Moore’s” and “Whittaker’s” provided national coverage; others were more local. Few survive to the present day, with many of the small ones disappearing with the arrival of local newspapers.

Our area was served by a number of almanacs that provided information on local services and trades interspersed with short articles, typically on village history.

Here are some of those articles on Farnhill and Kildwick.

### Kildwick Parish Almanac – 1869

## Some Historic Accounts of Kildwick Parish,

*Gathered out of sure, well-authenticated, and curious records, here presented to Kildwick Parish Almanack.*

1st.—The ancient Britons, Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans have severally inhabited or traversed this locality, in which vestiges, symbolic remains, and appellations, can now be seen to corroborate the fact.

The ancient tribes of the Celtic Druids, being of Gaulic extraction, had a place of worship among the cliffs and oaks in Oekcliffe, or Oakcliffe, i.e. the “Oaks of the Cliff,” now corrupted Hawkcliffe. Garlic Kirk, to this day, in the rocks, is an appellation very symbolic of ‘worship,’ and what, or who is so like to have had such a place here, as the ancient Druids; their history will go far to prove it.

The Romans had a bye road on the British trackway, which entered this Parish in Aiden, and intersected the south eastern part obliquely, in a serpentine direction across-wise in the townships of Sutton, and Steeton, on Esburn Cragg, down Street Lane, after leaving Wood Street-head, thence to Stretton, now corrupted Steeton, or the town of Stephen, according to Dr. Whitaker and others. STIVETON, which cannot be originally of Saxon period, nor STEE, signifying STIVE, or Stephen Town, there not being a Stephen in the Saxon history, hence the appellation is not a personal derivation, but local, from, or on the Roman bye or lesser road on the said British track-

way, called here Street-lane, or Stretton, i.e. or the town of the ancient Britons, situated on the Roman street, or way, on the British track.

Thence, to Long-landsford, athwart higher Howden, by Gill-grange, across Romald’s Moor, to OLICANA, the military-station, or head quarters of the Romans in this part of Britain, now called Ilkley, which station had two out-posts, or camps, one on Woffa Bank, the other on Earl Cragg, besides there have been three other camp, or entrenchments, viz. British in Aiden, Saxon on the hill, above the the village of Kildwick, and Danish on Cononley Moor. Also, at top of Farnhill Moor, there is a Barrow, or sepulchre mound, Somewhat of all these remains of antiquity, may be seen to this day.

KILDWICK,—or Wick—signifies a fortified place, a strong hold, a fort, a house, or castle which is strengthened with mossy wall, or earth work, surrounded by a deep moat,—some such appeared to have once been at this place prior to the original founding of the Parochial Edifice, about the end of the 10th century.

KIID, Saxonia—CULD, —or CULD. —now KILD, or rather KULD-WICK was the first military man here, a warrior, CULD, a chieftain,

princely Saxon Captain, very strongly seated, and fortified, and there are two fields high above the present mansion house, the names of which are symbolical of a chief, called high captain, and low captain, to this day.

But conciseness forces the conclusion of this part of the history, so we shall now proceed to give some Topographic detail of some prices of provisions, and of some wages in the several years as follows,—in A.D. 1310, wheat 6s. a quarter, oats 3s., a fat cow 12s. 6d., a sheep 1s.2d., a fat hog 3s.4d., fat goose 2½d., eggs ½d. a dozen, wine 4d. a gallon. In A.D. 1531, sugar 7d. a lb., milk 1½d. a gallon, eggs 60 for 7½d. rabbits 2s 2d. the dozen, geese 7d., a sirloin of beef 2s.4d., half of a fat calf 2s.8d., a barrel of ale 3s.8d., a kilderkin of beer 1s., wine 10d. the gallon, currants 2½d. a lb., common bread 1s.10d. the bushel loaf. In A.D. 1560, 8 pints of butter 1s.6d., beef 8d. a stone, and a leg of mutton 5d., and 3 pullets at 1s. Labourers' wages in 1320, 1½d. a day for best workmen, and reapers in the first week in August were allowed 2d. per day or 6d. our money at present, in the second week they had 2½d., a day; a master carpenter, was limited throughout the year to 3d. per day, a common carpenter 2d. per day, money of that age.

Best military horse 13s 4d., a pair of shoes 4d., a Bible £33 6s. 8d. In the year 1487, the very finest bred riding horse for the King cost 16s., paid for a greyhound 14s.4d., a gos-hawk 4s., trained birds of prey were at exorbitant prices about this time. Hunting and hawking took the place of waring and fighting by the nobility and gentry of England.

Since the war of the Roses ceased between the Royal Houses of York and Lancaster, on the marriage of King Henry VII, of the House of Lancaster with the Princess Elizabeth, eldest daughter of King Edward IV, of the House of York, which united the two great rival Houses, and ended the wars of the Roses, which had continued from the battle of St. Albans, in A.D. 1455, to the battle of Bosworth Field, a space of 30 years.—“During which vast numbers were slain, and very much English blood was spilt, and undoubtedly some of the population of this Parish would have to share in the crimson loss—especially at the battles of Wakefield, Towton, and other bloody, sanguinary conflicts; many women hereabouts would thereby be made sorrowful widows, particularly at the battle-field of Towton, near Tadcaster, where there were slain 39,000 or more, and the Lancasterians defeated with great loss.”—Battle of Towton, on Palm Sunday, A.D. 1461. The Lords Clifford, of Skipton Castle, fought for the House of Lancaster.

Shall next give a brief list of the number of principal Yeomen returns furnished for the battle-field of Flodden out of each Township in the Parish, viz.—Kildwick 3, Farnhill and Cononley 4, Bradley 3, Silsden 4, Sutton 2, Glusburn 3, Cowling 4, and Steeton 4.

There is a written mention of John Netherwood, who went from Kildwick Township to the battle-field of Flodden, whose male successional descendent, in the person of John Netherwood, Esq., now reside at Kildwick Grange to this day, being one of the oldest families in the Parish not extinct in name, and of whole blood, and being landed proprietors, natives, and residents on record of this Parish nearly four centuries.

There are very few of this distinguished family now of this Parish, as above described. And it is more than probable the Richard Garforth, of that noble house, and said family at Steeton, (and his son Dennis, though young,) went to Flodden, and other two, if not four more with them from Steeton, to fight in the battle of Flodden.—And William Hargreaves, and his nephew Robert, went out of the township of Cowling, and other two of the yeomen there were returned to Flodden-field in A.D. 1513. These Hargreaveses were of the valiant and ancient ancestral line to the Hargreaves family late of the mossy strong old Hall at Farnhill, that formerly belonged, and occupied nearly all the said Township of Farnhill; and in Cowling they were mesne Lords of Ickornshaw, contemporary with the Robert Lord de Esburn, having lands amounting to a knight's fee, from four to five hundred acres, doing suit and military service to their liege Lords of Skipton Castle, in the reigns of King Edwards I, II, III, and but of late become extinct in this parish of Kildwick, by name, yet, there is a branch of the said family by name and blood, at the village of Draughton, the parish of Skipton.

Also, Thomas Scarborough was returned from Glusburn, and two with him, to Flodden. He built the present Glusburn Hall, A.D. 1535. The following is a list of the number of persons who paid cess in the Townships of this Parish, viz. Kildwick, 16 persons paying £1 0 2½, Farnhill and Cononley, 45 persons paying £1 11 6.—Bradley, 34 persons paying £1 6 10.—Silsden, 130 persons paying £4 6 8.—Steeton, 31 persons paying £1 4 6.—Sutton, 49 persons paying £1 2 6.—Glusburn, 29 persons paying £0 19 6.—Cowling 97 persons paying £1 14 2.

When Royd House was built by the MAMIONS, in A.D. 1492, then the annual rental of Farnhill Hall Farm was no more than £3. 13 4.

CONTRIBUTOR.

## KILDWICK AND FARNHILL.

**K**ILDWICK, anciently called Childwic, situated on the river Aire, is a parish containing seven townships (three of which are separate ecclesiastical parishes), four miles south-east from Skipton, and five north-west from Keighley. It is a polling place for the Northern Division of the West Riding, and is in the eastern division of Staincliffe and Ewecross Wapentake, Skipton Union and Petty Sessional Division and County Court District, Rural Deanery of South Craven, Archdeaconry of Craven, and Diocese of Ripon. The Railway Station, on the Midland Extension Railway, is a quarter of a mile from the village. The village and manor of Kildwick were amongst the first donations to the Priory of Embsay, by Cecilia de Romille, the foundress.

The Church of St. Andrew is a building of stone, chiefly in the Perpendicular style, and is known as the "lang kirk of Craven," being  $145\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length and  $48\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, including a nave of six bays  $18\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, and a chancel of four bays. It consists generally of chancel, nave, aisles, porch, and has six bells, and an ancient open oak roof. The stained east window was erected by Wm. Bradley Wainman, Esq., of Carrhead, in memory of his children. The west window is a memorial to the Rev. Henry Currer Wilson. There are also several other similar memorials, with ancient shields from Fountains Abbey, Bolton Abbey, and others of the Cliffords and Rycrofts, who left charities to the parish. There is, besides, a very interesting monument of Sir Robert de Styveton, a Knight Templar of the 14th century. The register dates from the year 1575, and is in good condition. The living is a vicarage, yearly value £420, with residence, in the gift of Christ Church, Oxford, and held by the Rev. Frederick Waters Greenstreet, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge.

There is a National Day School in connection with St. Andrew's Church, which is under the management of trustees, of whom the incumbent for the time being is one. The present number of scholars on the books is 140, including infants, with an average attendance of 112. The head master is Mr. T. H. Haswell, C.M., with one assistant-mistress, and a pupil-teacher. A branch of the Yorkshire Penny Bank is held at the school, established in 1883, and which meets every alternate Friday, from 7 to 8 p.m. Actuary, Mr. T. H. Haswell.

Kildwick Hall, the residence of John Brigg, Esq., J.P., is an ancient stone building in the Elizabethan style, standing on the brow of the hill above the church and village, and commanding a fine and extensive view of the district. The ancient timber of the hall, the terrace walk, with a building at the end similar in character to that of the hall, the gates with wide flight of steps and life-size figures of lions, the terraced garden and fountains, &c., give the place a pleasant air of antiquity. The original house was built in 1635, and the present frontage added to it a century afterwards. The property belonged to the Currers, who resided here for many generations, and now belongs to Sir Mathew Wilson, Bart., M.P., of Eshton Hall, who inherited it from his sister-in-law, Miss Richardson Currer.

There is a Gas Company at Kildwick, for the purpose of supplying gas to the inhabitants of the parish. Manager, Mr. J. Garlick.

There is a Reading Room and Institute at Kildwick, with about 50 members, and which is supplied with daily papers, periodicals, draughts, cards, &c. Treasurer, Mr. T. H. Haswell; Secretary, Mr. Charles Hargreaves.

There is also a Cricket Club and Bowling Green Subscription Club at Kildwick.

Sir Mathew Wilson, of Eshton Hall, near Gargrave, is lord of the manor, and principal landowner. He owns also the whole village of Kildwick. The land is chiefly in pasture.

The principal hostelry is the White Lion Inn, kept by Martha Kelly.

The Post Office is kept by Mr. Jonas Holmes, and is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Letters are delivered on Week-days at 6-35 a.m., and despatched at 7 p.m.; on Sundays delivery commences at 7-30 a.m., and letters are despatched at 6-35 p.m.

The population of Kildwick in 1881 was 160.

FARNHILL is a township and village in the parish of and adjoining Kildwick, four miles south from Skipton. The name was anciently Fernhill, so called from the Manor House situated on a hill once luxuriant in ferns. Farnhill is situated on the brow of a sharply rising hill, and adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Farnhill Hall, the residence of James Slingsby, Esq., is an interesting building of great antiquity. A great portion of the township, including the mansion, belongs to George Lane Fox, Esq., who is also lord of the manor. The Primitive Methodists have a Chapel, with which is connected a Sunday School with 120 scholars and 36 teachers, and a library of 140 volumes. The Wesleyans have also a preaching room. A Waterworks Company was established in 1883: Chairman, Mr. Thomas Aked; Secretary, Mr. T. Green. A branch of the West Riding Volunteer Corps, connected with Skipton, is held here, with 28 members enrolled; Corporal T. H. Haswell.

The principal manufactures are those of Messrs. Stephenson & Sunderland, worsted manufacturers, Industrial Shed; Mr. James Aked, worsted spinner, Farnhill Mill; and Mr. Samuel Watson, worsted spinner, Airedale Mill.

The principal hostelry is the Ship Inn, kept by James Berry.

The population of Farnhill in 1881 was 561.

## Craven Household Almanac - 1909

### FARNHILL.

(Postal address, Kildwick, via Keighley.)

Farnhill, anciently Fernhill, so named from the Manor House situated on a hill once luxuriant in ferns, stands on the brow of a sharply rising hill, and adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. There are two factories here. The population in 1901 was 626.

*Primitive Methodist Chapel* (Silsden Circuit)—The chapel, with seating accommodation for 200 persons, was built in 1897, at the head of the village. Ministers, Revs. W. J. Robson (supt.) and B. W. J. Redhead, assisted by lay preachers. Services on Sundays at 10-30 a.m. and 5-30 p.m.; Tuesday evenings at 7-30; Sunday-school at 9-30 a.m. and 1-30 p.m. Secretaries, C. Hill and C. R. Snowden; scholars, 120; teachers, 30. Library, 220 volumes.

*Parish Council*—Members, W. Brigg (chairman), A. Turner (secretary), W. Sunderland, P. Baldwin, A. G. Kitson (treasurer), J. Birtwhistle, R. G. Kitson, C. Weatherall, and A. Lund. Meets monthly in the Primitive Methodist school.

*Independent Order of Oddfellows, M.U.*, "Loyal *Staincliffe*" Lodge, No. 221—Number of members, 350; Juveniles, 60; capital, £4,400; sick pay, 9s. per week. Meets alternate Fridays at the Oddfellows' Hall (the property of the society). Secretary, W. Hill; treasurer, O. Stirk.

*Waterworks Company*—Capital, £700; fully paid. President, A. G. Kitson; vice-president, A. Lund; sec., J. Mosley; treas., P. G. Baldwin.

*Band of Hope*—Meetings held every alternate Monday in the school-room. President, Rev. B. W. J. Redhead; secretary, C. S. Jackson. Number of members, 90.

*Liberal Organisation*—President, J. Brigg, M.P., Kildwick Hall; secretary, A. G. Kitson; treasurer, E. Green.

*Half-day Holiday*—Tuesday.

## KILDWICK.

(Postal address, via Keighley.)

Kildwick, anciently Childenic, a small village, with its few dwellings clustered around an ancient parish church, stands near the banks of the river Aire, and has a station on the Midland Railway. The church is very old, being built in the 14th century, but has recently been thoroughly overhauled. The building has been strengthened, slated, and generally renewed, and the interior sittings have also been thoroughly renovated or renewed. From its great length (175 feet) it has acquired the title of "The lang kirk of Craven." The church accommodates about 1,000 persons. The village and manor of Kildwick were amongst the first donations to the priory of Embsay, by Cecilia de Romille, the founder. Its population in 1901 was 146.

*Parish Church (St. Andrew's)*—Vicar, Rev. E. W. Brereton, M.A. Services at 10-30 a.m. and 6-30 p.m.; holy communion, 8-0 a.m.; first Sunday in month at 11-30 a.m. Church open daily for private prayer. Ordinary week-day prayers at 10-0 a.m. and 7-0 p.m.; holy baptism and churchings after due notice; special services in Advent and Lent. Organist, Mr. Medley. Sunday-school at 9-30 a.m. and 2-0 p.m.; scholars, about 150; teachers, 18.

There is a library in connection with the Church Day School.

*National Schools*—Master, T. Appleby; assistant-mistress, Miss F. Spencer; pupil teacher, Miss S. E. Sugden; infants' teacher, Miss Waite. Number of scholars on the books, 130; average attendance, 112. Foundation managers, Rev. E. W. Brereton, M.A., vicar (chairman), W. Sugden, S. D. Watson; co-opted, R. Mosley and P. G. Baldwin.

*Kildwick Parish Gas Company*—Manager, F. H. Pickles

*Kildwick Parish Feast*—Commences on the nearest Sunday before the 12th of August.

*Yorkshire Penny Bank*—Established March, 1883. Meets every alternate Friday, from 7-0 to 7-30 p.m., in the National School. Actuary, T. Appleby.

*Kildwick Parish Institute*—Re-opened February, 1904. President, Rev. E. W. Brereton, M.A.; vice-president, J. W. Sugden; hon. sec., S. D. Watson; hon. treas., P. Hartley. Reading room, games room, including billiards. Open daily, except Sundays. Members, 40.

*Church of England Men's Society*—President, Rev. E. W. Brereton; secretary, W. B. Whittam; treasurer, G. Chilvers. Meets monthly in the school; about 20 members.

*Kildwick Parish Cricket Club*—Ground, Holme-lane. President, G. H. Jackson; secretary, A. Peel; groundsman, E. Odgen.

*Brass Band*—Practices held in the Prospect Assembly-room, Farnhill (the property of the band). President, L. Brigg; secretary, A. Chew. Committee consists of 17 members. The actual membership of the band numbers 140, from which 28 playing members are selected. Bandmaster, C. Jeffrey.

*Half-day Holiday*—Tuesday Afternoon.

*Post Office*—Deliveries on weekdays at 7-10 a.m. and 5-5 p.m.; Sundays, 8-25 a.m. Despatches on week-days at 10-40 a.m. and 6-50 p.m.; on Sundays, 5-45 p.m. Parcels despatched 10-40 a.m. and 6-50 p.m. No parcels delivery on Sundays. Post Office Savings Bank, Sale of Postage Stamps, Postal Orders, Money Orders, &c.; Registration of Letters and receipt of Inland, Foreign and Colonial Parcels every week-day from 7-0 a.m. to 8-0 p.m. Sunday hours, 8-0 to 10-1 a.m. Postmistress A. Holmes.

## KILDWICK POLLING DISTRICT.

### KILDWICK.

(Postal address, via Keighley.)

Kildwick, anciently Childenic, a small village with the majority of its dwellings clustered around an ancient parish church, stands near the banks of the River Aire and has a station on the L. M. & S. Railway. The Church is very old, being built in the 14th century. It was restored in 1904, and now accommodates 1,000 persons. From its great length (175 feet) it has acquired the title of "The Lang Kirk of Craven." In 1925 a new burial ground was consecrated, the old one round the church being full. The village and Manor of Kildwick were amongst the first donations to the Priory of Embsay by Cecilia de Romille, the founder. The village is mentioned in "Doomsday," and the ancient bridge which spans the river has lately been placed on the list of ancient monuments. The population in 1921 was 169. The area is 873 acres.

### FARNHILL.

(Postal address, Kildwick, via Keighley.)

Farnhill, anciently Fernhill, so named from the Manor House situated on a hill once luxuriant in ferns, stands on the brow of a sharply rising hill and adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. There is one factory here. The population in 1921 was 657. The area 543 statute acres.