

A Farnhill time-capsule from the 1930s

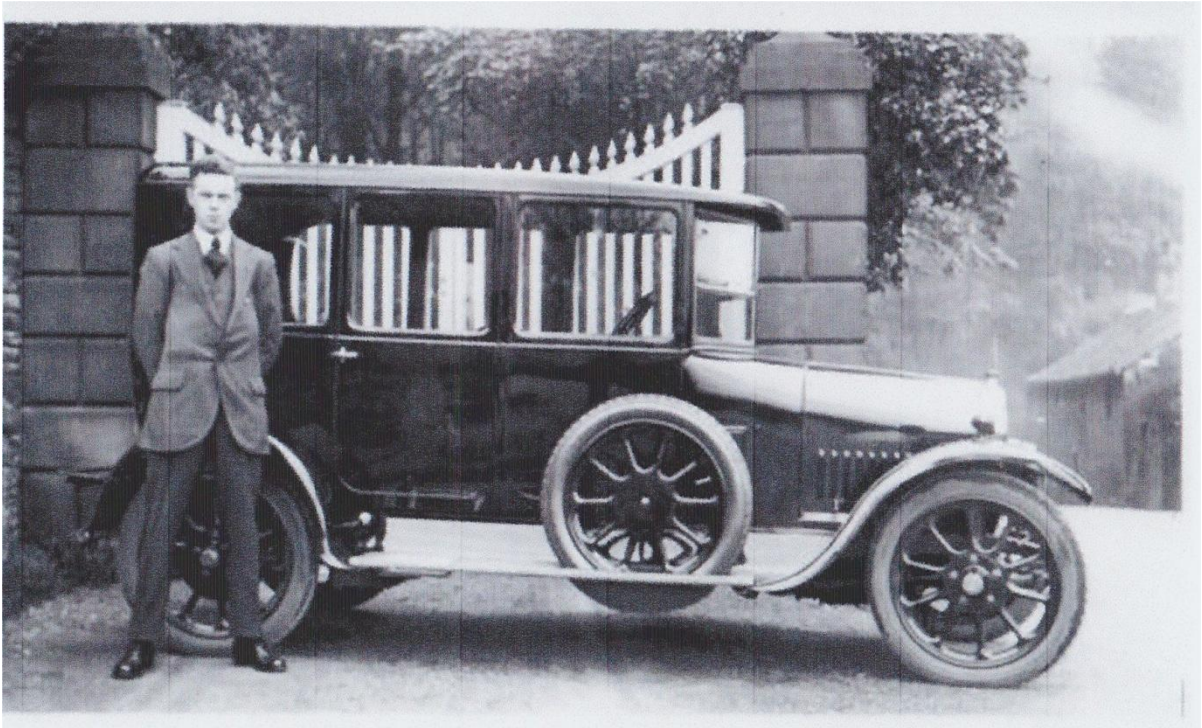
Introduction

Moorend, the house at the very top of Starkey Lane, was built in 1934 by the then owner of the Kildwick estate, Richard Henry Francis Wharton Wilson. He had the date and his initials carved on the lintel above the original front door.



Lintel above the original front door of Moorend – now an internal door

The house was built to provide a home for the chauffeur at Kildwick Hall, Robert Roe, that was close to his work.



Robert Roe at the entrance to Kildwick Hall drive – now Hall Gardens

The time-capsule

In 2006, when the house was undergoing substantial remodelling, workmen uncovered a jam-jar embedded in one of the walls. The jar was a “time-capsule”, containing a number of items dating back to when the house was built.

Item #1 – Front page of Yorkshire Observer

The front page of the Yorkshire Observer, dated September 11th 1934, is the latest dated item in the time-capsule and perhaps indicates when it was deposited – certainly it couldn't have been put there any earlier ! This date fits well with the known age of the house.

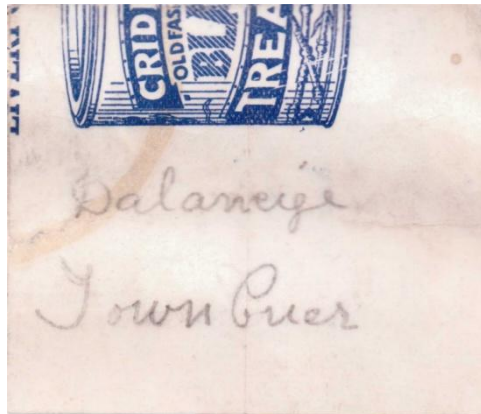


The main article reports the victory of the British boxer, Jack Petersen, who retained his British Empire heavyweight title on September 10th 1934 in front of a crowd of 64,000 people at White City, London. The contender was Larry Gains, a black Canadian from Toronto and a previous holder of the title, who was knocked out in the 13th round.

In addition to being British Empire heavyweight champion, Jack Petersen was also the British heavyweight champion, for the second time (May 1932 to November 1933, and June 1934 to August 1936).

Item #2 – A racing tip ?

It's just a slip of paper with three words on it.



When it was first discovered, the significance of this could not be determined. However, it seems likely that this piece of paper was a racing tip or possibly even a betting slip.

- **Delaneige** – was one of the best steeplechasers of the mid-1930s. It finished fourth in the 1933 Grand National; and second to the legendary “Golden Miller” in the 1934 race.
- **Town Crier** – was a flat racer; winner of the Paradise Stakes in 1933. In March 1934 it was well fancied for the Lincoln Handicap, the first major race of the flat season, but was not placed. Later that month it was tried over hurdles.

I'll have a fiver on the likelihood that there was one day in 1934 when both horses were running, and someone working on the house fancied a shilling on each of them. Off-course betting was illegal in the UK until 1960.

The piece of paper used for the tip is an advertisement for “Criddle’s Old Fashioned Black Treacle”, made by a company in Liverpool.



Item #2 – Unemployment benefit adjudication notice

A successful appeal for unemployment benefit, dated 20th February 1931 – during the “Great Depression”.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

Decision of Court of Referees on a Claim for
Unemployment Benefit.

In the matter considered by the Court to-day with regard to the claim
for Unemployment Benefit of M. 9. A. E. Crossley
a decision has been given in favour of the Claimant.
20/2/31 (Date). Frank Ward
Chairman.
KEIGHLEY Court of Referees.

Note.—A copy of the report of the proceedings of the Court and of their findings will be forwarded
to the Claimant in due course.

U.I.630B.

(E584) Wt. 10338/1518 400M 8/30 ATLD 51-1670.

At this time, the procedure for claiming unemployment benefit involved reporting to the local labour exchange and having your claim assessed by the “Insurance Officer”. The Insurance Officer could reject a claim if:

- You had left your previous job without just cause
- You had been dismissed from your previous job for misconduct
- You had refused to take suitable employment
- You had lost your previous job due to a trade dispute
- You were not actively seeking work

It seems that Albert Crossley made a claim for Unemployment Benefit that was rejected by the Insurance Officer. He must then have made an appeal against the Insurance Officer’s decision to the higher authority, the Court of Referees.

This paper indicates that his appeal was upheld.

Item #3 – Receipt from Steeton Soldiers & Sailors Club

A receipt for three shillings (15p).

STEETON SOLDIERS & SAILORS CLUB.

.....*Feb 4*.....193*3*

Received from*Mr. H. L. L. L. L.*.....

.....*—*.....Pounds,*Three*.....Shillings

.....*—*.....Pence.

.....*C. Barrett*.....Sec.

Possibly a membership subscription ?

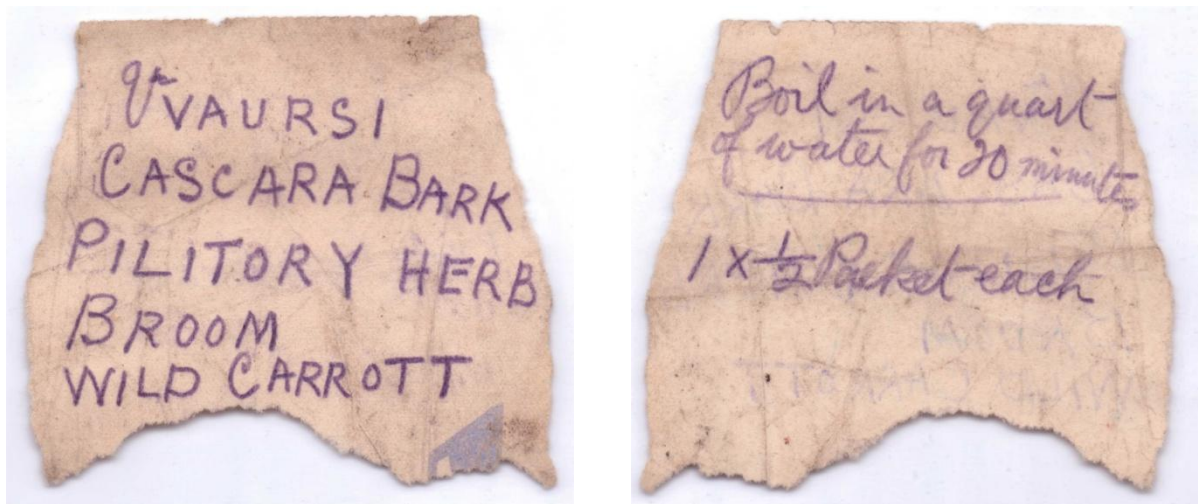
Item #4 – Subscription to Crosshills & District Conservative Club

A receipt for an annual subscription – seven shillings and six pence (37½p).

Crosshills & District Conservative Club.	
+++	
MEMBER'S TICKET.	
Mr.	<i>W. C. Copley</i>
Address	<i>St. Paul's</i>
Subscription paid to	<i>Dec 31</i> 192 <i>3</i>
Amount received	<i>7/6</i>
<i>R. H. H. H.</i>	Steward & Collector

Item #5 – A strange recipe

Originally identified as a recipe.



However, the ingredients are rather strange:

- **Uva-ursi (Bearberry)** – Native to north-America, used medicinally as a diuretic and for treatment of bladder infections.
- **Cascara bark** – A well-known laxative.
- **Pellitory** – The herb *Anacyclus pyrethrum*. It has a range of uses in herbal medicine, including relieving toothache and promoting a free flow of saliva. It induces heat, tingling and redness when applied to the skin.
- **Broom** – In folklore, ashes of broom were used to treat water retention (dropsy).
- **Wild carrot** – Folk-medicine holds that an infusion of the seeds will inhibit pregnancy. Wild carrot is very similar in appearance to the highly poisonous hemlock.

Who was this concoction intended for and what was it intended to cure ? At the very least it's likely to have opened the sluice-gates at both ends.

Item #6 - A gun licence (expiring end-July 1934)

GUN LICENCE

10s. 0d. XZ 4565

† ALBERT EDWARD CROSSLEY.

of 31 Croft St Glusburn. Keighley. in the

Civil Parish or Township of Glusburn within the


Administrative County* W. R. of Yorks

is hereby authorized to CARRY AND USE A GUN in Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the date hereof until and including the *Thirty-first day of July* next following; the sum of TEN SHILLINGS having been paid for this Licence.

Granted at Cross Hills at 11 hours 5 minutes — .m. o'clock

this 12th day of August 1933

by O. Barker.



N.B. This licence will not authorize any person to purchase, have in his possession, use, or carry any firearms (as defined in the Firearms Act, 1920) in respect of which it is necessary to hold a firearm Certificate granted under the said Act unless he holds such Certificate.

† Insert full Christian Name and Surname.

* If the residence is within a County Borough, strike out "Administrative" and insert "Borough" after "County".

[P. T. O.]

S.D. 1931.

Purchased at Crosshills post-office on 12th August 1933 and valid until 31st July 1934. Cost, 10 shillings (50p).

On the rear is an advertisement for Barbour outdoor-wear, in the form of a testimonial from someone who had spent three days on a duck-shoot wearing Barbour water-proof clothes.

ADVERTISEMENT

By Appointment

Smyrna, Asia Minor.

Dear Sirs,

After three days exposure to heavy rain whilst duck shooting in a boat, I feel compelled to express my satisfaction with the manner in which your coat kept me protected.

Glad to see Sports Suit of yours with breeches and your coat, which looks admirably round the neck, under your hat and an all-round trim. I finished a hard wet day without a vestige of moisture under my coat, or undue discomfort whilst shooting.

Your outfit permitted me to shoot comfortably in the rain, whereas boat duck-shooting in rain has not hitherto been considered worth while amongst us.

Yours truly
(signed) Ed. H. GRANT.

Catalogue giving full particulars of BURBERRY SHOOTING KIT and patterns of Burberry Shooting Cloths, sent on request.

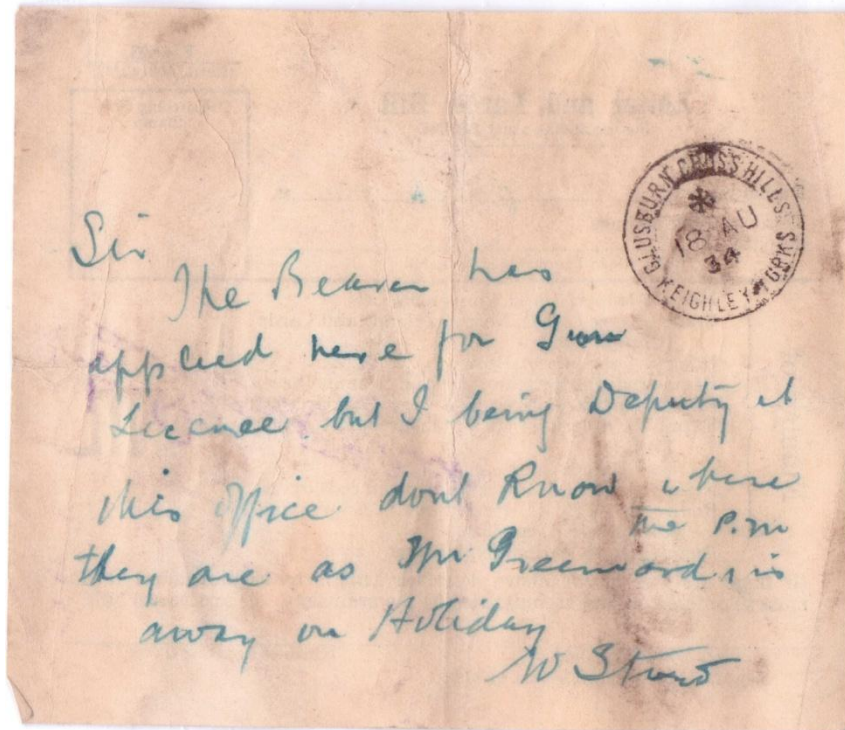
BURBERRYS Ltd. HAYMARKET LONDON S.W.1

P.T.O.



Item #7 – A problem with the 1934 gun licence renewal

When his gun licence expired at the end of July 1934, it looks as if Albert Crossley tried to get it renewed at Crosshills post office; only to run into a bit of bureaucratic incompetence.



Stamped 12th August 1934, the text reads:

Sir,

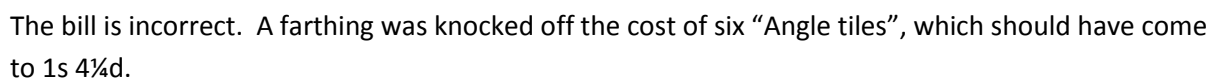
The Bearer has applied here for [a] Gun Licence but I being [the] Deputy at this office don't know where they are as Mr. Greenwood (the P.M) [postmaster ?] is away on Holiday.

W. Stroud

The note was written on the back of an unused slip used to record the collection of postal sacks from the office.

Letter and Parcel Bill		P. 434 B. (Rev'd. 102146/32)
(For use at B.O.'s and T.S.O.'s).		Despatching Office Stamp
Despatched atM.		
Total number of bags despatched (For use in Parcel Despatches only).		
Number of {	Insured Imperial and Foreign Parcels.	} NIL
	Trade Charge C.O.D. Forms (Inland) and Cards (Imp. & For.)	
	Insured Letters and Boxes.	
	Registered Packets and Official Remittances.	
	Parliamentary Notices and Jury Summons.	
	Express Unregistered or Uninsured Letters or Parcels.	
	Air Mail Parcels.	
	Night Callers' and Editors' Letters in red covers.	
	Redirected, Unpaid, Posted out of Course and Undelivered Parcels.	
	Bundles of Imitation Typewritten Circulars.	
(If there are any of the above described articles to be despatched they must be entered on and accompanied by the ordinary letter and parcel bill).		
Initials of Despatching Officer.		Initials of Receiving Officer.
M.8103. 11/33. N.&C.B. 3,500,000. 51-4723.		

A receipt, dated 25th March 1933, for purchase of tiles, sand and cement from Barritt's the builders.



John Barritt, the founder of the company, had been a key figure during the Kildwick typhoid epidemic of 1899, during which he lost his eldest son and two daughters in a period of just 10 days. He died in 1912. The “CB” who initialled this receipt could have been Charles Barritt his surviving son.

Who created the time-capsule ?

Although we can't be absolutely certain who created it, all the personal documents in the time-capsule belonged to Albert Edward Crossley of 31 Croft Street, Glusburn. We know quite a bit about him.

Born: 7 April 1870, Glusburn

Married: Emily Walmsley of Farnhill c1900

Died: 18 February 1953

Albert Edward Crossley was born in Glusburn and was the sixth of 11 children born to William and Mary Crossley. Albert's father, William, was born in Crosshills in 1834 and at the age of 17, in 1851, was living and working in Skipton as an apprentice saddler. He married Mary (nee Walls), of Bishop Monkton near Ripon, in 1858, and by 1861 they were living in Crosshills.

Whilst Albert's elder brother John followed in his father's footsteps as a saddler, with a workshop in Station Road Crosshills, Albert became a stonemason working for local builders Barritt's and/or Atkinsons.

In 1901 Albert was living at 2 South View, Farnhill, having recently married Emily Walmsley, of Farnhill.

Three of Albert's siblings went to live in America: Walter in 1898, Tom in 1902 and Alice in 1906. Another brother, Wilfred, moved in with Albert and Emily in Farnhill, later marrying Emily's sister Margaret, who was widowed with a child.



Albert Edward Crossley (right), Emily (rear centre) and Wilfred (left)
The lady at the front is Cora Harrison (no relation)

What next – get involved

Do you live somewhere in Farnhill or Kildwick that has an interesting history ? If so, please contact us by email at history@farnhill.co.uk. Alternatively, why not come along to one of our monthly meetings – details on the website.