

Sept 28th  
1984

30 Midland Terrace  
Hellifield  
Skipton

Dear Mrs Hutton

Thank you very much for the letter & photos. They brought back some lovely memories of by gone days. I left there 79 years ago, but I can still remember a lot of what happened while living there. When I lived there, there was a building on the left of the house, A cart shed & some stone steps went up into a loft where bedding for the horse was kept. If it of any interest to you, there was then a barn called the Whipping Sloans. I wonder if at one time oats was grown & they were threshed there. When I was born in 1900 most of the meadows was mown by cythe & the three older children followed on shaking the swaths by hand.

Again Thanking you.

Frank Beresford

Memories of Mr Frank Beresford, of 30 Midland Terrace, Hellifield.  
9 August 1984

Mr Beresford was born in 1900 at Cowside in the parish of Buckden in Langstrothdale. When he was five the family moved to High Greenfield, but almost at once his father died of appendicitis. The eldest child at that time was a daughter of 12, and Mr Beresford's elder brother was killed in the first war.

On his father's death, Mrs Beresford gave up High Greenfield and went to live in a cottage at Starbotton, where Mr Frank Beresford went to school until 1914. He then went as a farm hand to his uncle's farm near Kettlewell.

Mrs Beresford married again in 1917 and went to Old Ing in Horton parish with her second husband. Unfortunately he got influenza in the epidemic and was very ill, after which he remained extremely depressed and committed suicide. So in 1918 Frank came over to Old Ing to run the farm for his mother. They had about 15 cattle, shorthorns, and sold the butter to Charlie Read or to John Clayton. They also had 130 sheep, Swaledales. Frank used to cut peat for fuel.

In 1926 Frank married, and in 1932 he left Old Ing for a farm of his own at Scale. He had a good landlord in Mr Metcalf, who never upped the rent all the time Frank was there. In those days everyone in Horton worked either on the farms, the railway, or in the quarries.

People from Newhouses and New Inn had the right to cut peat from Black Dub Moss, but there was also peat on the farm at Scale.

Frank also reared cows and sheep; he sold the cows at Hellifield, sending them down by the 2-30 train as his mother had done from Old Ing, and the cowman went by the 7-0 train to milk and see to selling them. On a Thursday some 500 cows would be up for sale at Hellifield. The lambs were at first sold privately because there were not many spare lambs when the flock was being built up; but later they went to the sales at Ribbleshead.

At Scale, Mrs Beresford used to make cheese in the summer - she explained that you can't make cheese in the winter because it doesn't dry out - and in the winter she sold the butter. It was impossible to sell the milk as there was no way of getting it from the farm to the station over unmade roads. When a Horton collection became established later on, they did sometimes take milk in by road, in a pony-cart.

During the second war people were supposed to plough up land, and he ploughed about 3 acres and put it down to potatoes; people also grew kale and oats. He did at one time have a try at making silage, but it was not worth the trouble and he didn't make much.

Also during the war Mrs Beresford recalls joining with her neighbours Mrs Morphet and Jimmy Morphet of High Birkwith, the Shepherds from Selside, and Edna Walbank from Fawber to get up concerts for the Red Cross; they gave several concerts in Horton and in Selside, and raised £152. They went to each other's houses to practise, and Mr Beresford played the fiddle and wrote recitations which they performed.

In the 1920's there was still a bit of a Fair at New Inn to which a dealer or two came; Frank remembers taking along some Geese once. He was more interested in the annual Horton Show, for which he acted as one of the judges.

In 1957 Mr Beresford retired from Scale and went to live at a cottage at Row End, but he still kept on a bit of land and 120 sheep. Lambing began in mid-April, shearing was in July, and they had to dip in August, again in October, and in the Spring before lambing.

During the hard winter of 1947 he hardly lost a sheep until the Spring when they came down into the home field (we didn't bring them down, they came); he then lost half of them from 'silent pneumonia'. Scale moor still has heather and plenty of winter feed, because it is stunted and so not over-grazed.

Mrs Campbell of Studfold lived at Beecroft Cottages as a girl. She was a Miss Sanderson, her mother having remarried, her step-father was Mr Milman. Mr James Milman worked at the Quarry; Thomas Milman, his father, came from Derbyshire to work at the Quarry some time before 1882. (Not in 1881 Census - BH) James was born at Studfold. The Goodwin family came to Horton at the same time. There were three rows of cottages and two bungalows built for the workers by the grandfather of Mrs Beecroft in Settle. There were 6 + 7 + 9 cottages, making 22.

James Milman died in 1941 and they moved. A conscientious objector lived with them who had to work at the Quarry. There must have been 50 to 75 people working there, perhaps more, and all work at that time was done by hand. The jobs would be dynamiting, breaking and filling. An explosion was called a 'heading'. Six tons of explosive blew up 60,000 tons of rock. They started by digging a tunnel by hand, packing it with explosive, and then filled it in again as they worked their way out, leaving a fuse; there would then be a huge explosion. Mrs Campbell remembers two such while she was living there in 1938. This kept the work force going for years. Most of the lime went out by rail to Consett steel works in Co. Durham, and a small portion went by road. The lime went into the kiln from the bogies, and was burnt; a team of men fed the coal into the furnace by hand, and later drew the burnt lime off from the bottom of the kiln. They drew four times in a day. The kilns were slotched up at night and for the weekend - metal kilns needed more slotching up than stone ones. J. Milman opened up the flues on a Sunday night ready for the week's work. The men worked in pairs as lime drawers. The work was very hot, dirty and exhausting as well as dangerous.

160 quarry workers went on strike from Horton Quarry over a pay dispute. Their wages were based on the quantity of lime drawn from the kiln.

The men might have 2 barrows of coal for 2/6, and that sum and the rent were both knocked off their pay before they received it. You got no pay if it rained and you could not work.

In those days Sidwells brought round cakes, buns and bread, and Heaps similarly. Bibbys brought round vegetables and fruit. The families were in competition. Clem and Old Harold. 'Only the best is good enough'. English and foreign produce.

The present post office was then a sweet shop and cafe. The post office was kept by Mrs Nelson, and before her by Miss Redmond, at 4 South View, New Inn. For butchers, there were John Heseltine and two others who came round. The Smithy was kept by Jack Holmes; clothes were sold by Evelyn Newhouse, haberdashery by Mrs Capstick. Sweets groceries etc were sold by Charlie Read from where Mr Bayes now operates, and he took a flat cart up to Selside. The Co-op was Wildman's general store, then Chris Wiseman, then the Co-op. Started by Halls, Freda Middleton, before that Mrs Sarginson, grocers. Mr Fawcett, cobbler, lived where Waltergarth is now, tennis courts behind. Bread could be bought, but most women baked their own. Rose Cottage was Jack Sharp and his sister; he was an odd job man. Road Sweeper. Mason Baines, joiner and undertaker - in 1941 a funeral cost £11, by 1948 the cost had doubled.

In 1935 T. Milman brought home 19/6 after deduction of rent etc. He paid 6d for a pools coupon - won £500. His brother had a pedal cycle. The Family went to Blackpool for the day. Billygarth was then a guest house with petrol pump and taxi, and they hired the taxi to go to Blackpool. T Milman's mother and brother bought the Crown, and some of the money went into it. Brother Ernest (who is still alive, living at Santa Monica, Ca) bought a Daimler.