

## HISTORY OF METHODISM IN HORTON-IN-RIBBLESDALE

1740 Lawrence Batty of Newby Cote preached at Horton\*

1743 In answer to Archbishop Herrings questionnaire "No dissenters of any sort, some are family of Quakers." John Carr, the then curate of Horton stated "No licensed meeting house of any kind within the Parish but a meeting had of late been held in a private house, once in three weeks on the Lord's day "to which I believe source any have resorted, but a few impotent old people and children. The teacher is Lawrence Batty, not yet in Holy Orders, called a Methodist."

1745 Lawrence Batty preached at Horton, probably an INGHAMITE (A movement started in Ossett in 1712. Ingham went to America with Wesley where he was influenced by Moravians. \*

\* On one of these occasions Lawrence Batty was pelted with eggs.

1775 John Wesley preached in Settle.

In 1776, England had been divided into 5 circuits. York was in one circuit but in 1750, Haworth was made head of a "round" and Settle was within this round, holding, in 1760, their first preaching services. In 1765, the Haworth circuit books (the oldest Methodist circuit books in the World) reference was made to Long Preston.

1776 John Wesley preached in Settle, when Settle became part of the Colne circuit.

1782 Meetings were held at Gearstones.

1784 John Wesley preached in Settle.

1794 Settle went to Lancaster circuit.

1800 Mention of meetings in Arncliffe.

1802 A Methodist society in Stainforth under the leadership of a William Foster.

1803 John Kershaw, "Apostle of the Dales" preached at Garsdale.

1830 Settle circuit had 14 societies with 290 members, Stainforth 8, Austwick 25, Top in Horton, 3 members. There is continual mention of Horton until 1832 then a 32 year gap apart from a comment "Methodism in Horton parish not very successful."

1830 6<sup>th</sup> June. Lone Feast at Ingleton waterfalls. 200 present from all parts of Settle circuit, neighbouring dales and even Kendal.

1850 In the spring of this year, John Redmayne of Brackenbottom invited Methodists to hold services in his house. In the late summer of this year, John Camm came to live in Brackenbottom and services alternated between the two houses. There were 5 members:- Mr&Mrs Redmayne, Mr&Mrs Camm, Miss Catherine Dawson.

1851 Yorkshire returns of the 1851 census of religious worship shows Wesleyan Methodists of Horton-in-Ribblesdale met in a house used as a dwelling house. Sittings were free and on 30<sup>th</sup> March there were 35 in the afternoon congregation and 26 in the evening congregation. In remarks of the return "only lately opened as a place of worship." The return was signed by John Redmayne and William Gornall.

1852 First meeting held at Selside, 2 members, Mr&Mrs James Dinsdale. Then from 1856-1891 there were fortnightly meetings at Selside.

1853 Miss Catherine Dawson married William Charnley

1860 John and Thomas Sharp were converted at a service in the farmhouse of John Redmayne at Brackenbottom. These brothers had a great influence in founding the chapel in Chapel Lane, Horton.

Thomas Sharp married Miss Camm the daughter of Mr&Mrs John Camm of Brackenbottom. Later Mrs Camm died and John Camm and his spinster sister moved to Studfold House in 1867, services alternating between Studfold and Brackenbottom.

1860 Horton Temperance Festival.

1867 John Redmayne moved to Capon Hall and Mr&Mrs Camm? took over the Brackenbottom services.

1878 Brackenbottom features in the Settle district plan (preaching plan) with a weekly meeting each Sunday at 2pm. A note on the front of the plan reads "the

Sunday, 2 services, solos, duets and anthems.

Monday, Sunday school had a free tea and games in field lent by Mr T Davies. (NB. This field ran down to the Ribble, south of the chapel).

1909 Helwith Bridge appears in circuit records.

1909 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. At the quarterly circuit meeting at Settle, Mr John Sharpe of Horton announced the intention of members to build a schoolroom. Consent was given.

1912 Plan for Local Preachers Sunday shows:-

Horton services at 2pm and 6pm.

Foredale, 2.30pm service with Mr Wm Dawson of Settle as preacher.

January – Men's own brotherhood inaugurated.

Dec. shows average attendance, 20-25 and at group meetings, 45-50.

Dec. Missionary meeting – The chapel almost full for Lantern Lectures. From the proceeds, £10 was given towards the debt on the Settle Manse.

1913 May. Sunday school nearly paid for.

August. Harvest collection was £5.5s.2d.

October Temperance meeting at Selside run by Juvenile section of Independent Order of Rechabites.

1915 December. Death of John Sharpe. This gentleman played an important part in Methodism in Horton. He and his brother were converted in 1860. John Sharpe married Miss Camm and had a family, John, Gilbert, Annie and Lily. John never married, Gilbert married but no family, Annie remained a spinster. Lily married Fred Heath and they were stalwart Methodists through the 20's, 30's, 40's and early 50's.

1917 Mr Richard Potts recognized as a local preacher. Dick Potts came to the area from Tyneside, working on the railway living on Station Hill, his wife was chapel organist for many years (she was a Miss Warne of Settle).

1918 Letter of appreciation to Miss Sharp (presumably Annie), expressing appreciation of "long and many services to Methodism"

Capon Hall preachers are to be met at Langcliffe and brought back as far as Cowside. Both preachers are to be conveyed halfway either to Settle or Clapham station.

1889 Selside fortnightly meetings shown on plan. Horton services shown as alternating between Studfold and Brackenbottom.

1892 Studfold still featuring on plans but not Brackenbottom. Land was secured for the building of a chapel. The squire, Mr John Foster of Douk Ghyll offered a piece of land to Mr John Sharp and "the matter was quickly put in hand". The cost of the land was £30 and included was a stone wall which Mr Coates the builder worked into the building and was a great saving. Mr John Harger drew up the plans free of charge.

1892 At the circuit quarterly meeting on 28/3/1892, the chairman reported that land had been secured for the building of 3 chapels, Hellifield, Horton, and Settle and permission was given to proceed as soon as practical.

1893 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Horton Chapel opened.

Rev S Chadwick opened the chapel and gave the pulpit Bible. (This Bible is now with the museum at Hawes making up part of the display reconstructing a model of a non-conformist chapel)

All charges were met after the opening services. The farmhouse services at Brackenbottom and Studfold were discontinued and were united at the Horton chapel.

1897 Sunday school started.

1898 Horton chapel anniversary on Whit Sunday.

1903 A letter to Miss Camm for the services of the late James Camm of Studfold.

1907 Foredale features on the preaching plans for the first time.

1908 Methodist mission met at Horton, "collection all silver, no copper and only two 3d pieces"

1909 Anniversary Services. 22/23/24 May.

Saturday, Tea and meeting, 4 addresses.

1925 Rev. H Wright met with a serious trap accident returning to Settle after a Horton appointment.

1934 23<sup>rd</sup> September. "The first occasion on which the Parish Council have attended a place of worship in their official capacity." Presumably Harvest Festival.

1938 Foredale was dropped from the plan.

1940 Helwith Bridge service at 2.30pm, only 4 members.

During the 40's, the chapel was lively but gradually, during the late 1950's the congregation dwindled and the few remaining members struggled to keep the chapel going, but eventually members were so few that the chapel had to close.

1969 The last recorded collection of £1.17p.

1971 The final electricity bill was paid.

There are some remaining unanswered questions.

- 1) Why were early members recorded as being under "Top of Horton"? I don't think there has ever been a non-conformist connection with Top Farm. Could this refer to the most northerly or the highest gathering in the Settle area?
- 2) There is no report in the Craven Herald concerning the opening of the chapel, although either side of such an important event, minor functions are reported e.g. a Methodist picnic at Helwith Bridge.
- 3) As the individual farms in Brackenbottom did not have separate names in 1800's, I am not sure where Methodists met in Brackenbottom. The Camms, Redmaynes and Chamlleys are all shown on the census of 1881 as being in Brackenbottom. I feel confident that the Methodists met in the end room up the steps at the west end of the farm now known as "Greengates" and the farm opposite, but there is no way as yet I can prove this.
- 4) I am unable to trace the records and minute books etc. from Horton chapel.

I shall keep working away!

Dora Tattersall. 2010