

Foss View

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We are Peggy and Eddie Chapman.

Eddie is one of a family of 11, (the youngest son,) He was born at Beckden, and went to school at Beckwithshaw, near Harrogate, Kettlewell and Arncliffe

I am one of a family of 10. I was born at Swineside-in-Coverdale, and went to school at Leyburn, and Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

We were married at Tosside, where my parents were farmers, Tosside is about half way between Wigglesworth and Botton-by-Bowland.

Foss View

Foss View is a two bedroomed cottage situated at the west end of Litton. It is so called because of the water flowing out of the hillside opposite. This water is also our household supply, which has catchment tanks and is then piped across the river to the house.

The date stone above the front door is 1735 SJM. ~~It~~ ^{Wasn't it just the end room?} ~~was~~ ^{Part of} originally a barn. ~~It~~ ^{The end of the house}

Foss View is a rented cottage, owned by the Walker family from Otley (they owned most of Litton at one time). The cottage was for their gamekeeper, namely Billy Lund (Dennis' father) from 19~~xx~~^{43?} to 19~~xx~~⁴⁹, then Jackie Richardson, ~~from 19xx~~^{until} ~~to~~ ⁵⁷ 19xx. It was empty for a while before we rented it in 1958.

The first known people who occupied the cottage were relatives of the Webster family, including Maggie Garnett who died in 1937. They owned Armistead Farm and Green Cottage also. When we came here we had the electricity put in. We had a bathroom with toilet installed in 1965, until then the double earth closet was at the bottom of the garden, not a pleasant journey in the middle of winter on dark windy, snowy nights, with just a torch. Earlier, people would use storm lanterns.

The room at the end of the house, which is now our bathroom, was once a cobblers shop up a stone staircase, and below was a wash house with a long stone sink and a built-in washing boiler or set pan. This was a cast iron circular bowl, with a brick surround and a coal fire underneath it to heat the water, especially on washing days, when bed linen etc could be boiled. The walls of these rooms were white-washed with lime.

We have a large garden which was very overgrown and neglected with fruit bushes and plots where vegetables were grown. Over the years we have made lawns, flower beds and just a small vegetable patch.

The present occupants are Peggy and Eddie Chapman. Eddie is one of a family of eleven (the youngest son). He was born at Buckden and went to school at Beckwithshaw near Harrogate, and Kettlewell. He finished his school days at Arneliffe, when he lived with his parents at Darnbrook and walked to school every day (two and a half miles). I (Peggy) was born at Swineside in Coverdale, one of a family of ten, and went to school at Leyburn and Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

?
?
We could put
"in the 1940s"
if you don't
have the dates
"or put
about 19--"

flamethrower outside the barn at West Farm when the flame shot through a cat-hole in the door and set light to the hay. The fire brigade had to spray water on the gable wall to cool it and save the house.

Eddie changed from farming to working for Settle Rural District Council in 1954 and later for North Yorkshire County Council. He was known as a length man, having a length of road to maintain, from Rainscar to Halton Gill and Foxup, and down as far as Gooselands, just entering Arncliffe. His work entailed clearing gutters and drains, scythe mowing the roadside verges, sweeping and gathering leaves in the autumn, and in winter he had to grit and salt the roads. Before the wagons came over from Settle to salt the roads, Eddie had to stand in a cart behind a tractor and shovel the salt into a spreader. The school children got a lot of pleasure, stacking up snowballs behind the playground wall, waiting for his to pass by. In 1983 Eddie was awarded the British Empire Medal for 29 years service, working for Settle and North Yorkshire County Councils.

Changing Litton

We have seen many changes in Litton.

In 1958 there were 16 houses and 36 adult residents, with 15 children living at home. There were 7 farms: Elbeck, East Garth, Armistead, Litton Hall, West Farm, Sawyersgarth and Stonelands.

This year there 27 houses occupied, 6 second homes and 66 residents. There are only 4 farms: East Garth, West Farm, Sawyersgarth and Stonelands. Only ourselves and Dennis Lund are long-time residents.

Barn Conversions: Armisteads – 5 Sanctuary Houses
 Coatsworth
 Hartleys
 Litton Hall Barn, plus a holiday cottage
 Park Bottom
 Sawyersgarth Top Barn
 Brearlands – 2 houses
 Stonelands – ¹⁰7 holiday units
 Croft Cottage Barn
 Elbeck – 2 houses

Potts Beck (the Old School)

The six second homes are: Litton Hall, Hartley's Barn Sawyersgarth House,
Manor Cottage, Sawyersgarth Barn, Coatsworth Barn

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The date-stone above the front door is 1735 S.J.M. It was originally a barn, there is also a large coal-house and a barn adjoining, which goes with the cottage.

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The first known people who occupied the cottage were relatives of the Webster family, including Maggie Garnett who died in 1937. They owned Armistead Farm & Green Cottage also. When we came here we had the electricity put in. We had a bathroom with toilet installed in 1963, until then the double seater earth closet was at the bottom of the garden, not a pleasant journey in the middle of winter on dark windy, snowy nights, with just a torch. Earlier, people would use storm lanterns.

The rooms at the end of our house were once a cobbler's shop up a stone stair-case, (which is now our bathroom) & below was just a wash-house, with a long stone sink and a built in washing boiler. These boilers were cast iron circular bowls, with brick surrounds, with a coal fire underneath to heat the water, specially on washing days, when bed linen etc could be boiled. The walls of these rooms were whitewashed with lime.

We have a large garden which was very overgrown and neglected, with fruit bushes, & plots where vegetables were grown. Over the years we have made lawns, flower beds, & just a small vegetable patch.

We were married in 1955 & came to Halton Gill, where we lived for 3 years, we came here with our 2 children, Colin was 2, Hazel, 3 months old. They went to Arncliffe school, then Upper Wharfedale at Threshfield, Colin going on to Keighley Technical College. He worked for the Forestry Contractors. He then worked at Herliden, farming, he married Karen in 1978 and went to Corseth, near Newcastle to manage a large cattle farm. They came back to live near Steeton, and for the last 13 years has been a Dry Stone waller, working a lot of the time up in the dales.

Eddie & I met in 1949 when I worked at The Falcon & he worked on a farm in Arncliffe. Eddie finished his school days at Arncliffe, he lived with his parents at Dambrook & walked to school every day (more than 2 miles). He changed from farming to work for Settle Rural District Council, in 1954. It later became North Yorkshire Council. He was known as a longh man, having the length of road to maintain from Rainscar to Halton Gill & Foscep and down as far as Gooselands, just entering Arncliffe. His work entailed clearing gutters & drains, Sythe mowing the roadside hedges, sweeping & gathering leaves in the Autumn & in the winter had to grit & salt the roads. Before the wagons came over from Settle to salt the roads, Eddie had to stand in a cart behind a tractor to shovel the salt into a spreader. The school children got a lot of pleasure, stacking up ~~snow~~ snowballs behind the playground wall, waiting for him to pass by. In 1983 Eddie was awarded the B.E.M. for 29 years service. Working for Settle and North Yorkshire County Council.

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Now there is only 4:- East Garth - West Farm - Sawyersgarth and Stonelands.

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Barn conversions: Armisteads - 5 Sanctury Houses

Coatsworth

Hartleys

Litton Hall Barn, plus a holiday cottage

Park Bottom

Sawyersgarth

Brearlands

Stonelands 7 holiday units

Craft Cottage

Elbeck 2 houses

The Old School.

The 6 second homes are:- Litton Hall - Hartley's Barn

Sawyersgarth House - Manor Cottage

Sawyersgarth Barn - Coatsworth Barn.