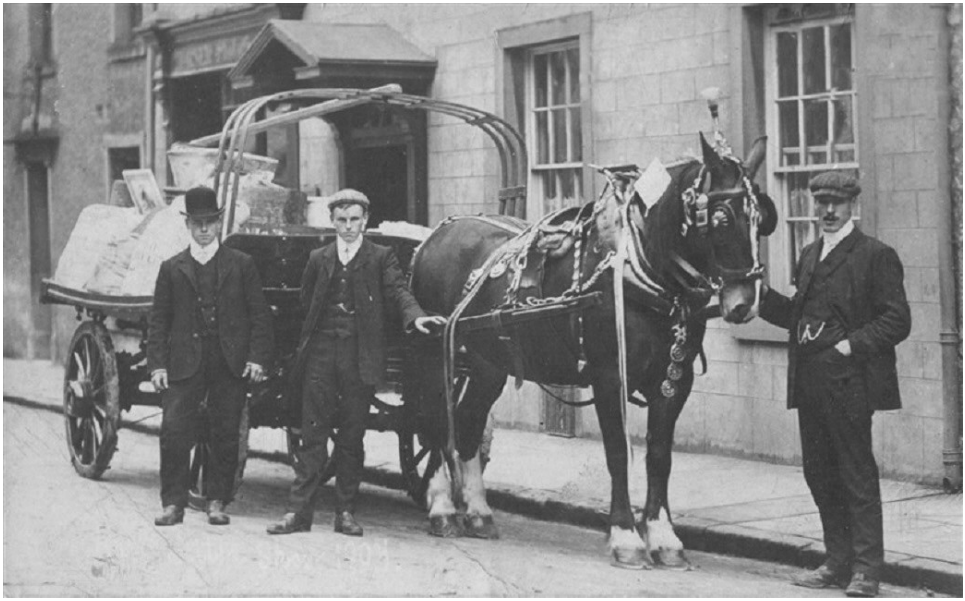
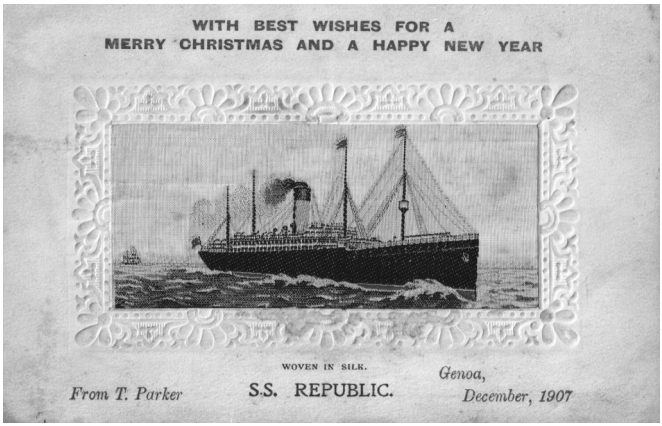
More stories from the family album

Some photographs and details about my Grandmother's two brothers, Walker Parker and Thomas Parker from around the years 1900 - 1918.



The photo above shows Thomas (centre) and Walker (right) at Settle, possibly taken on a Settle show day as the horse is decked out in its brasses and plumes. The horse and cart belonged to Mr. John Hoar, a grocer, draper and corn merchant of Hellifield whose premises were located on Kendal Road: the building still survives today and has now been converted into housing.

The second photo (to the right) shows Walker (far right) outside Close House and Bacon Terrace on Gisburn Road. Close house was built around 1910, an old barn occupied the site previously. Bacon Terrace is thought to have housed workers from a weaving shed which was located around the area of Gisburn road where Holly Tree House stands today. Walker worked as



Thomas was due to join the RMS Titanic at Southampton in 1912 as a member of the victualling crew but a twist of fate was to save his life. Although Thomas is listed in the official RMS Titanic crew records as being lost at sea, a closer inspection of his papers show that they were in fact signed by a Thomas Porteus, this man signed on in Thomas Parker's stead as Thomas Parker was in Hospital at that time and was unable to sail. It would seem likely the two men knew each other, possibly sailing together on other vessels. These details have been confirmed by the descendents of Thomas Porteus, who sadly was to be lost at sea on that fateful day in 1912 and his body was never recovered. Thomas Parker went on to marry and have three children: he lived on to the age of 64 and passed away in Blackpool in 1951.

John Pearcy.

an agricultural labourer before joining the Midland Railway Company as a porter and was to work on Hellifield Station until he was called up for military service during the first world war. Walker served with the 1st Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment on the western front but tragically he was to die of wounds and illness on the 9th May 1918 aged 30 years old, leaving a wife and two young children. He is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery in France.

Thomas Parker trained as a butcher in the early 1900s and went on to work in that capacity for the White Star Shipping line. Thomas was based in Genoa in Italy and sailed on the White Star route to Boston USA, via Naples, Almeria (Spain) and the Azores during a time of mass migration from Italy to the United States. Some of the ships Thomas served on were the SS Romanic, SS Republic and the RMS Oceanic, two of the postcards featured here were sent from those first two vessels.