

HISTORY OF KIRKBY GROUP

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SANDSIDE

VOLUME ONE

From before 1930 to about the 1980's Sandside was a thriving, busy hamlet in the village of Kirkby-in-Furness. Running from 'West View' opposite the railway station, Sandside runs southwards through Nuttery Lane towards the Police Station (which is no longer there). It also includes the properties at Askew Gate up to the 'Ship Inn.' During this time there were forty four houses, including a chip shop, a bank, a co-operative store, a place of worship and a post office, and the Ship Inn. All that remains now is the railway station, the Gospel Hall, the Ship Inn and houses. A number of old houses have been knocked down and several new ones built. Two barns have been converted into houses and part of the old Co-op store has been made into dwellings. The bank closed in 1971 and the Co-op in 1979. The railway station was very busy with wagon loads of coal being brought in and loads of slate from Burlington Slate Quarry taken away. The slate came from the Quarry in small trucks to be loaded into railway trucks at the station. Prior to the railway, slate was loaded onto boats. All this has now gone and slate is transported by road.



From the collection of George Woods

The station waiting room and ticket office was a strong stone building with a roaring coal fire on winter mornings. This was knocked down and replaced by a draughty glass and metal box. The west side of the platform was said to have the longest seat in England. After a number of letters from the Women's Institute the platform was raised in the early 1950's to enable passengers to get on and off trains without the need of wooden steps.

Phyllis Tyson

J. P. BARKER, Painter & Decorator

(Work Shop) POST OFFICE, KIRKBY-IN-FURNESS.

All orders left at above address will receive prompt attention.

Private Residence: BROUGHTON-IN-FURNESS.

From the Parish Magazine September 1923

HISTORY OF CO-OPERATION IN KIRKBY-IN-FURNESS

1861-1911

Early doings of the Society

It was late in the summer of 1861 that a cart might have been seen wending its way along the highway towards the ancient town of Dalton, the occupant being on his way to the Co-operative Store to buy his groceries. Seeing the inhabitants of Kirkby were taking an interest in the movement, a suggestion was made to the Dalton members to start a Branch at Kirkby, but they declined to do this and a decision was made to start a Society of their own. This was made by two or three quarry fellows and a blacksmith.

In the village of Soutergate stands the old smithy, and here, as is usual in all villages, people would gather together after the day's work was over to talk of the topics of the day, and this new system of Co-operation took its place in the discussions usually held. It was decided to call a public meeting, to be held in the Reading-room at Incline Foot, which was at that time the centre of all meetings held in the village.

Business was to commence at once and part of the house occupied by Mr. George Steel was rented. The first goods stocked were flour, meal, soap, candles, sugar and currants, which were sold at night by members of the committee, their work often carrying them to the early hours of the morning and many an anxious wife lay awake wondering, or, in some cases, even arrived at the shop to see if they were going to stay all night.

As the weeks sped by and things were looking healthy, steps were made to procure more commodious premises, and they succeeded in obtaining a house occupied by Mr. Wm. Rigg, and a Manager was engaged, Mr. Roger Postlethwaite being the first shopman.



1862 The Old Co-operative Store



2005 The Old Co-operative Store

Mr. William Robinson, a local poet, compiled a few verses respecting the new Store, which they had printed on their tea bags, etc., and which proved to be a helpful advertisement, as follows:-

*The Kirkby Ireleth Friendly Store
Will serve their friends with pleasure
With good and cheap and something more –
Discount, good weight, and measure.*

*Unto ourselves we have found good,
We wish the same to others;
Come here, kind friends, and buy your food,
And let us live like brothers.*

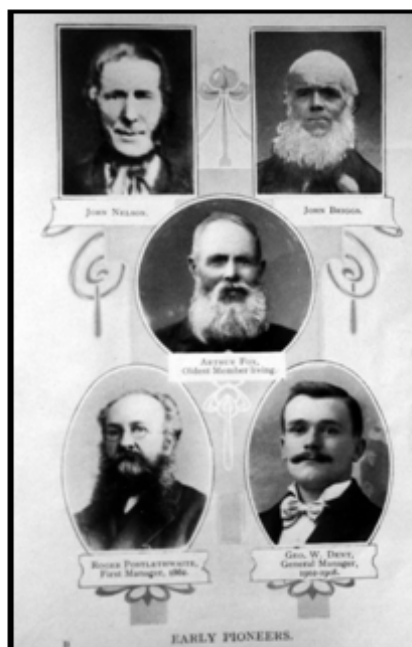
In 1863, as trade was increasing their small shop was inadequate and they began to look for suitable land to build on. A portion of land was procured upon which the present premises now stand. The premises were opened for business sometime during the following year, the full cost of the building being about £300.

During the years that elapsed between 1863 and 1873 they passed through a most anxious time. "The Managers engaged were either dishonest or utterly incapable of looking after the business, with the result that the shop suffered to no small degree. Things were beginning to be serious. In 1873 another Manager had to be engaged and a sub-committee of six were appointed to select him. Mr. Jas. Robinson, then secretary, was engaged, and from that time onward the Society went forward. In 1880 the number of members was 274. The business premises had been enlarged and a shoemaker engaged for repairs. The coal business commenced in that year.

Further extensions in 1883 were a Clog and Shoe Department erected adjoining the other premises. In 1884 eight cottages were erected on land bought from Mr. George Ashburner for £175. These were occupied in 1886 and named "Herschell Terrace". In 1885 the farm at Skell Hill was purchased for £820, consisting of about 10 acres of land, with farmhouse and buildings. A further 10 acres of land was purchased in 1895 from Mrs. Mark Whineray for £750 and added to Skell Hill.

In 1901 the Drapery and Boot Departments were causing the officials no little trouble, the trade being nearly at a standstill, and the Committee was called upon to select a General Manager, Mr. George W. Dent was appointed and it was soon evident they had got the right man. The Drapery and Boot Departments, under the management of Miss Tyson and Mr. H. Coward respectively, soon began to develop. Trade being nearly doubled in the years that followed.

In 1904 the Society again extended its premises. A spacious building was erected at a cost of £450, and a plant put down for the grinding of corn, coffee etc., and cleaning fruit. Also in 1904 Bell Haw Estate was purchased for £1,530, consisting of 20 acres of land, farmhouse and buildings and two cottages.



Early in the morning of March 16th 1905, consternation was caused in the villages when it became know that the Society's premises were on fire. Dalton Fire Brigade was sent for, and soon had the fire in hand, but not before £400 of damage had been done to property and stock.

The above was taken from the book "Some Reminiscences" by Mr. Moses Pepper, written in 1912. The last words he has written in conclusion to his book are;-

"In things essential, unity; in things doubtful, liberty; in all things, charity."

Phyllis Tyson

SANDSIDE GOSPEL HALL

The Gospel Hall was originally a barn owned by Holker Estates. It was bought by a group of Christian Brethren in 1916 and converted into a Chapel. The original members were Tom Robinson, who lived at "Heather Lea", Askew Brow, William Campbell, a joiner in the village, and Mr and Mrs Dobbs who owned the corner shop at Soutergate.

Over the years there has been a regular Sunday Service. There used be a Children's Meeting on a Monday night and this was attended by between forty and fifty children from the Village. Choruses were sung, lantern slides were shown, Bible stories were told and there were Bible quizzes. An annual party was held followed by prize giving. Every child was given a book.



'Sunshine Corner'
circa 1934 -1935

There have been many Baptisms by immersion and gospel Campaigns by leading Evangelists. Most people passing through the Village by road and rail have read the text on the wall outside the Chapel.

**"BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND
THOU SHALT BE SAVED"**

The sign in the window reads:

**"The speaker for this Tuesday will be Mr. Jowett.
A Hearty Welcome to All"**

Beryl Allenby

From 'Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser', 16th October 1856

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION By Mr John Coward (Under the Trusts of the Will of the late Mr. George Shepherd)

At the house of Mr William Stables, The Punch Bowl Inn, in Beckside, in the Parish of Kirkby Ireleth, in the County of Lancaster, on Tuesday, the 4th day of November next, either together or in such lots as shall be agreed upon at the time of Sale, all those excellent FREE-HOLD CLOSES OR INCLOSURES OF LAND SITUATE at or near Skell Hill, in the Parish of Kirkby Ireleth aforesaid, called and known by several names following, viz.,

Near Skell Hill	1 Acre	2 Rods	13 Perches
Middle Skell Hill	2 ..	2 ..	22 ..
Far Skell Hill	3 ..	2 ..	37 ..
Wheeler-dale	1 ..	2 ..	18 ..
Wheeler-dale	1 ..	3 ..	0 ..
High Field	2 ..	3 ..	3 ..
Marshfield	2 ..	0 ..	24 ..
Low Croft	1 ..	1 ..	30 ..

All now in the occupation of Mr John Shepherd, as tenant thereof, and in a first rate state of cultivation. Also, a Dale on Angerton Moss, near Waytham Hill, containing about an acre. Half a PEW in the Parish Church of Kirkby Ireleth.

27th November 1856

Repeat of above, sale date now Tuesday, the 2nd of December, but minus HIGH FIELD.

11th November 1858—WANTED

An apprentice to the Tailoring business --- Apply to Mr. Richard Coward, Tailor, Sandside. Kirkby Ireleth.

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