

EMBLETON – A PICTORIAL HISTORY

1890 – 1910

The Census carried out in 1901 showed 461 people to be living in Embleton. Their occupations included 3 Clergymen together with a postmistress, postman, police constable, physician/surgeon, school master and 4 school teachers, There were 5 hotels and public houses, 3 dressmakers and 3 carters, 2 butchers/shopkeepers and 2 carpenters/joiners plus one of each of the following :- blacksmith, boot & shoe maker, greengrocer, baker/grocer, draper, plumber, engineer (electrical), wheelwright, laundress, road contractor, dairy cow keeper, general contractor and a Registrar of Births & Deaths. In addition there were many people who worked in the quarry and on the four farms (North, South, East and Glebe) around the village.

It is of interest to note that a detailed survey carried out in 2008 showed there to be 452 permanent residents in Embleton whilst the 1851 Census showed 491 residents



The earliest picture we have of Embleton. From about 1850 until 1870 there was a girls school held in the building in front of the church. At this time there were two rooms in the building but these were knocked together in the late 1930s. The building is now known as the Parish Church Room. This photograph shows Mary Weatherly, the schoolmistress, with her pupils outside the south end of the school. The picture was probably taken towards the end of the school's life before the building became a reading room.



An unattributed postcard sent to Miss Wade at the Beehive Stores in Embleton and postmarked Chathill August 1903. Message :- ‘One of the best views I have seen’.

This picture was taken before 1897 when the school moved to its present premises. Although entitled ‘The old school’ this wasn’t the first school building. The school was founded in 1688 by the Reverend Vincent Edwards, vicar of Embleton 1680 – 1714. The original school building, on the site of the school house shown on page 44, lasted until 1825 when it was no longer fit for use and this ‘old school’ was built a little to the north on what was, before enclosure in 1730, the People’s Common and eventually became the quarry.



An unused unattributed postcard. Taken at the same time as the picture on the previous page, the headmaster was Joseph Carr who held this post from 1890 until 1925 and it was he who, in 1897, oversaw the move from this school into what is still the village school. In his will The Reverend Edwards had specified that 'I would not have the number of children to be taught gratis on my account restrained to fewer than ten, nor to exceed the number of fourteen. He also specified 'I do nominate, appoint and constitute the vicar of Embleton for the time being, overseer and visitor of said school, with full powers to nominate, and appoint, a master and to displace him upon neglect, or failure in his duty and office, but not until after two admonitions'. This latter led to much conflict in the mid nineteenth century.

There are approximately 100 pupils in the photograph.



This photograph was taken about 1897. The Embleton Feast was held each year on the Sunday after Whitsuntide, known as Trinity Sunday. The sports were held on the following Monday and Tuesday and up until 1897 mainly took place on the Scathe Grounds situated on what is now the central part of the golf course near the clubhouse. After this date they moved up into the village taking place on an area which is now part of Greyfield Estate. The sports included putting the ball, running high leap, running pole leap, flat races, steeplechases and handicap races. The events were fiercely contested, especially as some races, such as the steeplechase for men, carried a first prize of fifteen shillings, more than a day labourer earned in a week and worth about 60 pints of beer.



The quarry opened in 1864 producing Whinstone setts (dressed blocks) and Whinstone chippings. Up until 1914 the quarry employed about 80 people including, it would appear from early pictures, some women and children. Due to mechanisation the number of employees dropped to about 40 in the 1930s. Many of the workforce were itinerant labourers and at the turn of the century Embleton was considered one of the roughest villages in Northumberland. This picture is thought to be from before 1900.



A photograph taken circa 1902 showing the cart of William McLaren Carrier Embleton outside 'Sea View' (opposite the Greys Inn). There is some mystery associated with this picture as from 1895 until at least 1911 the Embleton carriers business was, according to Kelly's Directory, carried on by George McLaren.

In the 1891 census the brothers William, George and John McLaren are listed as Road Contractors living on Quakers Row Embleton. By 1901 William had disappeared from the Census, perhaps dead, and John was now a labourer. George had prospered however and is listed as a farmer and road contractor. One of his sons, William, aged 17, is listed as a General Carrier so perhaps this photograph shows William with his own cart but still working for his father's business.



MAIN STREET, EMBLETON.

Feb 17th 1904
Dear Sir) Please
send on by
Dixon's van on
Friday:-
½ st Marmalade
Oranges (Best)
1 doz Lemons,
Put price inside,
College.
Yours Truly
J S Stephenson

An unattributed postcard postmarked February 1904. Message :- 'Dear Sir. Please send on by Dixon's van on Friday 1/2 st Marmalade oranges (best) 1 doz Lemons. Put price inside. Oblige. Yours Truly J S Stephenson'.

Probably taken about 1900 the picture shows a fete on Front Street complete with travelling caravan, a roundabout and trestle tables. This could be around the time of the Embleton Feast held on Trinity Sunday. Stephenson's shop (which was one of several shops in the village at this time) was in the white building on the right that still houses the village shop.



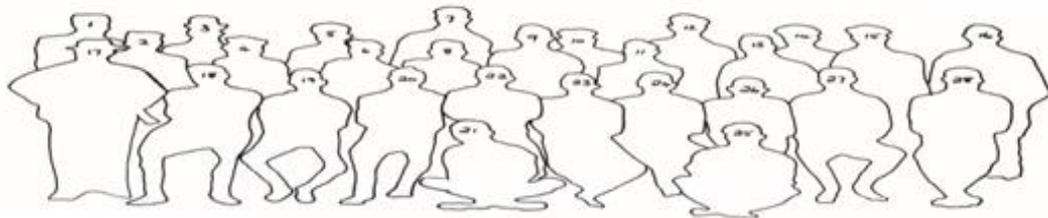
George and Ellen Short with family. George was one of the two village blacksmiths (the other being William Scott) and is shown working on page 30. This pre 1901 photograph was taken on Station Road, opposite the cottages shown on page 51, where they lived.



A 1902 photograph of Embleton Whinstone Rovers football team. The pitch was on the area where the Greyfield Estate now stands.

The following players and supporters have been identified as per chart :-

- 1) A. McLaren 2) ----- 3) W. Wake 4) G. McLaren 5) Pete Watson 6) ----- 7) B. Cummings 8) B. Waterson 9) T. Watson 10) Mark Appleby Snr. 11) H. Bolton
- 12) H. Watson 13) Dr. Waterson 14) H. Penny 15) G. Pattison 16) H. Burgess
- 17) R. Redfern 18) J. Straughan 19) C. Varnham 20) J. Scott 21) M. Appleby Jr
- 22) J. Bolton 23) A. Varnham 24) B. Green 25) J. Hogg 26) A. Smith 27) S. Whittaker
- 28) A. Barrs





An unattributed postcard sent to Mrs Oliphant in Carlisle, postmarked Christon Bank July 1906. Message :- 'Have just had my first deal this week. The country is beautiful. Hope to here from you in the morning'.

This is Pitts Central Supply Stores at the top of Front Street from where it was reputed 'you could buy anything'. Taken between 1900 and 1905 this picture probably shows Mrs Margaret Pitt in the doorway of the shop. The Pitts were shopkeepers in the village for many years, the 1841 Census showing a Pitt as having a bakers shop on the same site. The Pitts continued in business in Embleton until the early 1950s.



A postcard by J.B.B. Ltd No. 44 Printed in Berlin. This was sent to Miss Barnwell in Jesmond Newcastle, postmarked Embleton May 1906. Message :- 'Hoping you are having a nice time. It is wet here today but it is getting fine now'.

A photograph from about 1904 showing the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel. The hotel stands on the site of the Quaker Meeting House which was, by 1785, 'very ruinous and windows all broken, many of the seats gone to decay and fit for no use without a great expense'. It was eventually sold for £30 and by 1828 the Fox and Hounds stood on the site



This photograph was taken by J.L. Pitt, a professional photographer working in Glanton. The photograph was taken about 1900 when Frances Pitt, a widow living on her own means, lived in Jubilee House with her daughter Martha and shopkeeper son Michael. The picture shows one of the three cottages that used to stand in 'Pitt's Yard' in the grounds of Jubilee House. The family is probably that of William Humble who was a General Contractor. In 1922 Mark Appleby, the quarry owner, bought Jubilee House and in the early 1930s he installed a new drive with the entrance on what is now W.T.Stead Road. To do this he had to demolish this cottage and at the same time he turned one of the others into a garage. Martha continued to live in the remaining cottage.



A photograph of the inside of Holy Trinity Church about 1905. Note the oil lamps. It seems probable that the earliest surviving parts of Embleton church (the lower stage of the tower and the nave arcades) date from around the end of the 12th century. The first rector of whom there is any record is one Adam. Two upper stages of the tower were constructed in the 14th century; the four belfry windows and the parapet being of that date. The porch was probably built in the late 15th or early 16th century. There are three fine 13th century grave slabs set in the walls of the porch. A major 'restoration' of the church was carried out in the mid 19th century by the Newcastle architect John Dobson. There are six bells in the belfry, cast in 1892 and re-hung in 1956.

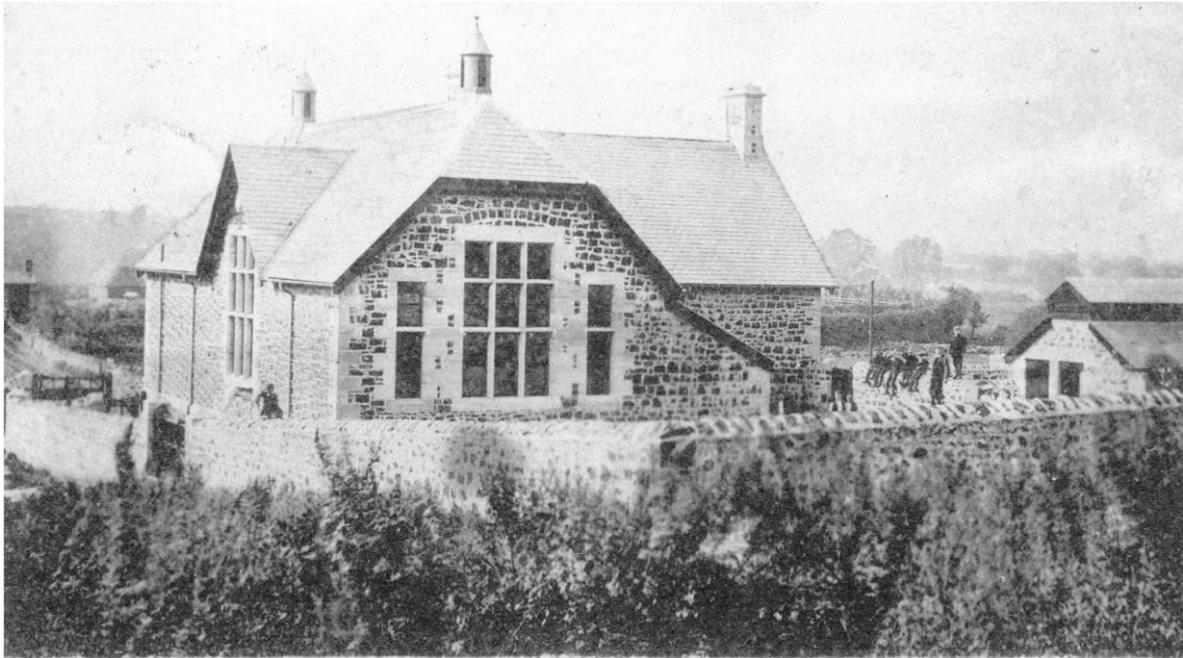


An unused postcard by J.C.Ruddock of Alnwick. This photograph, taken about 1905, shows a rare picture of the Railway Inn with its name board under the eaves. The manager at this time was Treasure Harry Watson !! Next door is Fred Gallon's butchers shop with meat carcasses hanging outside. To the immediate left of this shop, between this building and the next, is an alleyway, which was used to lead animals to the butcher's slaughter yard at the back of the shop. The large cauldron used for boiling up meat to make puddings etc. is still in situ. Pitt's store is further to the left.



A postcard by J.C.Ruddock of Alnwick sent to Miss Elvira Truttmann in Jesmond Newcastle, postmarked Christon Bank August 1909. Message :- “Dear Vera. Ask Julia if she has been round to Miss Brazendale about Mothers’ blouse. Winnie Breet is staying at the Railway Inn with some other ladies. Mother is thinking of going to bed after tea, the weather is rotten. Your sister Vi.”

Pictured about 1905 this is the ‘model’ lodging house which stood at the corner of Front Street and Quakers Row behind the single storey building on the extreme left. Writing with reference to the year 1919 Thomas Foggett said ‘The workhouse was occupied by thirty to forty Irishmen who had immigrated to working the quarry. The occupants slept on hessian bags filled with straw and paid 4 pence per night for board and lodgings. John Foggett, the quarry manager, used to inspect the lodgings weekly to ensure that it was scrubbed down and kept clean. The occupants were also regularly taken to a house where their clothes were deloused’. In 1861 the licensed lodging house was run by John Kelly, a licensed hawker from Ireland.



Embleton School

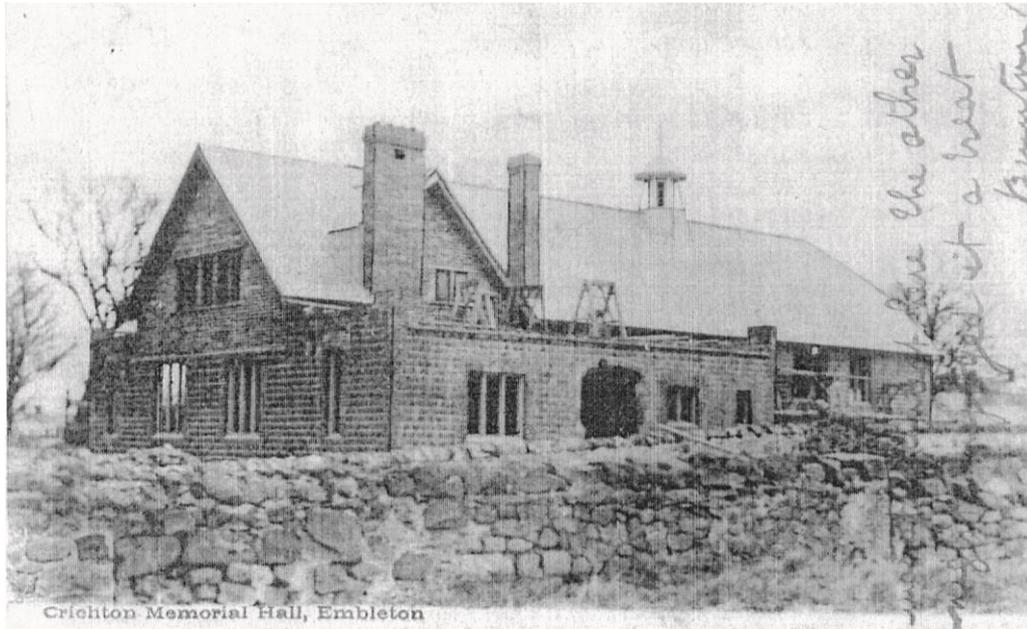
This school has only been built about 10 yrs & is heated with hot air.

An unattributed postcard, from about 1900, sent to Miss Cleminson in Aspatria, Cumberland postmarked Christon Bank January 1906. Message :- 'Front Street Embleton. Dear Annie I am sending you a view of the school in which I now teach. I have stds I, II and III in a classroom. There are about 50 of them. We have a very good piano. We are having a holiday on Wednesday on account of the elections. I hope you are well. I am yours sincerely Ema Armstrong'. On the front is written 'This school has only been built about 10 yrs and is heated with hot air'.

At this time the average attendance at the school was about 130.



Hilda and Eva McLaren outside the Blue Bell Inn in 1906. The licensee at this time was George McLaren (relationship unknown) who was also a farmer, road contractor and carrier. The building was once single storey as can be seen from marks on both end walls and across the front. It is not known when it was built, when it was extended upwards, or even if it was always an Inn. The first known record is in 1851 when it was listed as the Blue Bell Inn.



An unattributed postcard sent to Miss Duncan in Glanton with stamp but no postmark. Message:- 'Will have to wait 2 hours in Alnwick Fenkle Street. Have you been for weekend to C yet am going on Saturday wish you had been coming did not know I could get till yesterday. With love from M'. On front further message 'managed to meet here the other night and enjoyed it a treat. B.....'

The Creighton Memorial Hall was opened in 1903 in memory of Mandell Creighton who was vicar of Embleton from 1875 until 1884. The money to build it was raised by donations sent to his widow. After leaving Embleton Mandell Creighton was elected Dixie Professor at Cambridge and later appointed Canon of Worcester, Canon of Windsor, Bishop of Peterborough and in 1897 Bishop of London. During his lifetime he published 'The History of the Papacy' and travelled to America and Russia.



A photograph from 1905 showing Edith and Mary Victoria Waterson outside Moot Hall. They were two of the daughters of Dr Waterson who was the village doctor for more than 50 years. Moot Hall was once the 'Kings Court' or manorial court. In 1532 Henry VIII spent 46 shillings repairing the house and the stables below it and in 1586 Queen Elizabeth paid £124 – 13 – 0 for major renovation work. In 1604 James I sold the house to Lord Tankerville but it continued to act as a court house. There is evidence that around 1730 the Hall ceased to be a public building and became a private residence.



A coloured postcard in the Auty series No.4508 sent to Master Alex White in Sunderland postmarked September 1907. Message :- ‘Dear Alex. Received your PC for which many thanks. This is a view of main street in E village. Show it to Bob & Granny and she will show you where they waited for me and I was at church. I am yours etc. Willi’.

By 1847 the hotel had become known as the Horse and Hounds and by 1860 the Hare and Hounds. At this time it belonged to the Earl of Tankerville but was leased out. By 1879 the building had been extended, the tenant being Thomas Appleby whose brother Mark ran the Greys Inn and was leaseholder of the quarry.



A postcard by J.G. Ruddock of Alnwick sent to Mrs Forsyth in Maybole Ayrshire, postmarked Christon Bank September 1906. Message ; - 'Dear Mrs Forsyth I send you P. Card this time hoping your well when do you think we are to see you hear with that dear girl of yours. I don't know what your M intends but I am longing to see you all come. I know Macs seen your Mother this week. Bye yours Sincerely A'.

A picture taken outside the Blue Bell Inn in about 1905 whilst George McLaren was publican. Note the grassy triangle in the road.



A Monarch (R Johnson & Son Gateshead) series postcard No. 7868 sent to Cyril Horrocks Esq. In London N.W.12 postmarked Embleton August 1928. Message :- ‘Wednesday. Thanks so much for your letters. This is just to catch the post. I’ll write a letter this evening. You can see what a gay place this is. We went to a village concert last night – it was amazing – fit for a London Pavilion Revue. It is so nice to hear all your news, it is like being on a desert island here. Love to you all T’.

This picture was taken much earlier (probably about 1908) whilst the Railway Inn was still open. The Post Office can be seen on the left.



A postcard by J.C.Ruddock of Alnwick sent to Miss E Truttmann in Jesmond Newcastle postmarked Christon Bank 1909. Message :- ‘Another cold day. Haven’t bathed this week yet. Going to concert tonight and staying to dance for a short time. Seen the programme and it is very good, three professionals coming from Newcastle’. The vehicle registration letter X was introduced in 1903 and ran until 1921. The Alnwick Bakery van in the photograph was probably registered about 1907 and this photograph taken about 1909. The building with the boys in the doorway was, until about 1860, the Three Tuns Inn. Next to it is a butchers shop. It can be seen that the village pump is not on the village green at this time and that new rustic porches have been erected over the cottage doorways.



A postcard by T.S.Laidler of Craster sent to Miss Bowen in Pommern Germany postmarked Christon Bank August 1910. Message :- 'Jubilee House Embleton. I am having an awfully good time here. The weather is ripping & it is frightfully hot. We live in the sea nearly all day. There is a good golf course on the sandhills and we golf a good deal. I do hope the good weather continues. Do write soon. Love Elsie'.

A good view up Front Street to Pitts Central Stores taken around 1909. The rustic porches and gardens are fairly new.



A photograph entitled 'Winner of Embleton Feast cup and supporters 1910'.

The Embleton Feast in 1910 was held on May 22nd and 23rd. It is unclear what the cup was awarded for but it was associated with the sports held on the 23rd. In May 1875 Louise Creighton, the vicar's wife wrote to her mother 'Today and tomorrow are what is called the Embleton Feast. The people all have their friends to come and see them and on the Sunday they all walk about in new clothes. On Monday there are sports, races etc. for prizes and a ball in the evening. Booths are set up in the village, and I'm afraid a good deal of drinking and disorder accompanies the feast'.