

EMBLETON – A PICTORIAL HISTORY

1911 – 1920



PRIVATE G. BOWDEN
2nd Line 7th NF
Embleton



PRIVATE G. CUTHBERTSON
Army Service Corps
Embleton



PRIVATE P. MACDOUGAL
7th Northumberland Fusiliers
Embleton



RIFLEMAN V. STEPHENSON
21st King's Royal Rifles
Embleton



SHOEING SMITH W.E. DODDS
Royal Field Artillery
Embleton



DRIVER W. RICHARDSON
Army Service Corps
Embleton



PRIVATE J. MACDOUGAL
Tyneside Scottish
Embleton
(Died at Hull when serving his country,
August 27th)

Seven men from Embleton who served in World War I during which 17 former pupils of Embleton school were killed.



EMBLETON
LOOKING N

An unused unattributed postcard showing a scene from about 1912. The cart parked outside the Blue Bell is from Reavells and advertises A T OILS Brightest and Best. The cart at the side is from T.Dixon and Sons Alnwick who were bakers in Alnwick with premises on Bondgate and Narrowgate. At this time the licensee of the Inn was William Armstrong who according to the board over the door offered 'Porter and Tobacco – Good Stabling – Teas served.



An unused Lilywhite Laudler Series No. 14 postcard. The smithy was located on the southern side of the junction of Merton Cottages and Station Road. It was demolished in the late 1940s/early 1950s and a modern bungalow built on the site. In this photograph the blacksmith, George Short, is shown carrying on his trade in about 1910 when he would be about 65 years old. At this time he lived in one of the houses in the picture and a Miss Thompson lived in the other. Both were demolished in the early 1950s.



A postcard by J.C. Ruddock of Alnwick sent to Mrs Luke in Newcastle postmarked Embleton August 1914. Message :- 'Dear T & M I hope you are sleeping well it is raining so heavy here today so we have to stay indoors. Granny is not well she has teethache very bad yesterday and today with love from all Alice'.

A photograph from about 1911 looking down what is now Merton Cottages but was possibly still known then as Black Row. At the bottom of this lane, where it joins Station Road, was a pond known as the 'Black Hole'. At the top of the lane, near where Bolton's garage stood, was a pond called Trooper's Pool.



An unattributed postcard sent to Miss Cuthbertson in Embleton postmarked Pocklington May 1913. Message :- 'Dear Mother. A card in answer to yours. The back length of slip is 19in. Front 18 _ and from wrist to hem at side is 20 1/2 and neck 14. The blouse is very nice it is good stuff will write soon. This is the only card I have'. From Sarah.

A photograph of Thompson and Son butchers shop on Front Street next to the building where the Three Tuns Inn traded until about 1860. At this time (about 1911) there were two butchers shops in the village the other being Gallons on Cheviot View. Thompson's shop closed in 1918 when it was taken over by the Co-op.



The site of the ‘new’ Post Office near the Greys Inn photographed about 1912. Embleton Post Office first opened in October 1841 in part of what is now Morton House, situated behind the village shop. In 1847 John Morton was listed as postmaster and also as grocer and draper. In 1855 he advertised that ‘letters arrive from Alnwick at 12.30 noon and are dispatched thereto at 5.15 p.m’. He continued as postmaster until at least 1879 and in 1881 his widow Ann Morton aged 77, with her two daughters, was listed as a grocer.



A Lilywhite Laidler Series No. 18 postcard sent to Mrs Moore in Beeston Notts postmarked March 1913. Message:- 'Embleton Wednesday. My dear wife and children. Just a line to let you know I have got back to the old spot. I have not heard from you since Monday, still you will know where to send to now. I am quite alright, but it looks as though we shall get plenty of work to do as usual. Hope all are well at home, will write a letter later Love Tom'.

The picture dates from late 1912. W.T.Stead was born in the old Manse in 1849 during the time his father was minister of the Embleton Presbyterian Church (1843 to 1849). W.T.Stead was a social reformer and campaigning journalist who revolutionalised newspaper reporting. He had audiences with the Pope, Cecil Rhodes, Czar Nicholas II of Russia and Queen Victoria and Albert. He died on the Titanic in 1912.



SEA LANE
EMBLETON 52

An unattributed postcard sent to Miss Woolley in Newcastle postmarked Embleton 1915.
Message :- 'Having a fine time here, weather A1. Plenty of soldiers, 2 officers ahem. How
are you getting on without the devil. Mother sent my bike through got it this morning, we
were at Alnwick yesterday. Fine fun. Ta-Ta for the present Lily'. The 'villas' on the left of
the picture were built in 1911 but here Sea Lane has not yet been surfaced showing this
picture was most likely taken about 1913.



In this pre WW I photograph Mr Appleby, the quarry owner, (the land was leased from Samuel Eyres of Leeds and then, after 1919, from Sir Arthur Sutherland and a royalty paid based on output) is shown standing just in front of the engine in the foreground.

The quarry originally transported its products by horse and cart to Craster harbour and later to the main line station at Christon Bank via a narrow gauge (2ft 9ins) line which followed a route slightly to the north of what is now Greyfield Estate, crossed the Embleton to Christon Bank road and then ran along the wide eastern verge to a yard at the station. The two Crenstein and Koppel engines were named Dunstanburgh and Fanny Grey and worked until about 1930.



Unattributed postcard sent to Mrs Leonard in Stamp Street, Stockton on Tees postmarked August 1916. Message :- '26.8.1916 Dunstan Steads. Dear E. I just got Emma's letter this morning. It rained here all day yesterday & is still raining. P seemed to have a good time at home. I'm sorry I don't have a P.C. the same as I sent Emma. Was it one with a little bridge on Embleton Burn. I've forgotten which I sent. I think Ada has one like this. I wrote to Willie yesterday I write every week. Perhaps I may see Emma after all. We leave here Sept. 15 that is if her holiday is extended a little longer. Love Ethel'.

This picture was probably taken about 1914 at the ford on the way down to Dunstan Steads which is now crossed by a bridge. It is thought to show John Bolton, the village shoe maker, using his trap as a 'taxi' perhaps taking clients to Christon Bank station.



A photograph of the ‘new’ Post Office in the snow. By 1882 the Embleton Post Office had become a money order and savings office and in 1897 it was further upgraded to become a telegraph office. Maps of mid 1890s show the Post Office to have moved from Morton House to this site, perhaps when John Morton died. The Post Office issue bicycles date from about 1910. The picture, which dates from about 1916, shows Violet Luke on the left, Isabel Luke (later Bowden) centre and possibly Ms Carss from Newton on the right. The mailman holding the horse collected the mail from the train at Alnmouth station for sorting at Lesbury. The post box at this time was still V.R. The Post Office moved to its current site in 1958.



Front Street, Embleton. 28

A T.S. Laidler Craster, Lesbury Coastline series postcard sent to Mrs Innes in Gateshead postmarked Embleton August 1920. Message :- 'Thanks for P.C.'s. Hope you had a good holiday. We are having a decent time up to present, just want sunshine'.

Estimated as having been taken about 1915 this postcard shows that vegetation has grown up over the rustic porches of the cottages and the butchers shop has a name board over the window. The pump is now on the village green near the pant (fountain and trough) that was built by public subscription in 1913.



A photograph from about 1916 showing Dr. Waterston (centre) with a First Aid team. There are several well dressed young men in the picture but who they were or what they had to do with the team is unknown. The photograph may have been taken in the school playground.



A Laidler series 'All British' postcard used but with no postmark so presumably sent in an envelope. Message :- 'Dear wife this place was where we found those 6 boys on the rocks poor men we buried them last Saturday hope you like the card xxxx'

The picture is of Whale's Back or Saddle Rock in Embleton Bay. In March 1917 the Norwegian ship Pollux, out of Newcastle, was torpedoed some 60 miles off Aberdeen and lifeboats were launched. Several days later, in very bad weather, one was seen off Newton. It capsized off the rocks in Embleton Bay and six bodies were recovered. They were buried in Embleton Spitalford cemetery.



This photograph, taken early 1918, shows Miss Butterworth of the Women's Legion picking up an officer from his billet in the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel. The chain driven car/lorry X3568 would have been registered about 1916. The Women's legion was founded by Lady Londonderry and recognised by the Army Council in 1916. Its volunteer recruits undertook tasks including cookery, driving and land work. In 1917 the Women's Auxiliary Corps was established and the Women's Legion was absorbed into the War Office under department AG 11.



Early 1918 with troops of the Amy Cyclist Corps on parade on what is now W.T.Stead Road (originally Hen Row Causeway) opposite the Creighton Hall. The troops were accommodated in tents on a field near the old vicarage. 2nd Lieutenant Smurthwaite is taking the parade assisted by Sergeant Hill. The territorial 8th (Cyclist) Battalion, The Northumberland Fusiliers later became the Northern Cyclist Battalion, an independent battalion without regimental affiliation. In 1915 the fourteen cyclist battalions in the U.K. formed the new Army Cyclist Corps. Most units of the Corps served out their time in the U.K., providing replacement drafts to infantry battalions.



A photograph of the school house about 1926. It was built in 1825 on the site of the original school/school house, which was founded in the late 17th century, when a new school was built to the north in what is now the quarry. Traditionally the head of the Vincent Edwards Church of England school lived here and this continued until 1985 when the then headmistress wished to live elsewhere. The house was sold in 2000.



Embleton school Grade III class 1920. There were 31 pupils in this grade. The school had three classrooms, Mr J.Carr still being headmaster. In all there were approximately 100 children registered at the school. Children walked to school from what would now be considered long distances e.g. Brunton and Newton Barns, often leaving home before 8a.m. and not getting back until after 5 p.m. regardless of the weather. Wet clothes were dried around the large coke fired stove ready for the return walk. Writing about how the school was in the 1920s T.Foggett said 'there was a lot of poverty and in some classes children came to school in bare feet.