



HISTORY OF KIRKBY GROUP

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SOUTERGATE

VOLUME THREE

'The Shop', Number 1 Rose Cottages.

Prior to 1923 Amos Spry and his wife were in the Shop and when they sold it to Jos McAtee and his wife, they opened another shop next door to the 'Smithy'.

In those days there was no porch at the shop and the customers went straight in for two yards and turned right into the shop with the passage continuing into the living area. Alee McAtee built the porch and altered the right hand window. He also put a counter across the passage to prevent customers from going further into the house. Outside the house were railings where the youths of the day would gather to while away the time. Lizzie Dobbs served tea in the garden across the road to people who would walk from Barrow and then walk back again. Alex recollected that as a small boy he used to take the cows to the shore for the day from High Bank House. On the way home he would be given apples and cakes by his "aunties". He would look enviously at the pies in the butcher's shop, but hadn't enough money to buy one as he was one of the younger members of a large family.



Soutergate Square circa ???

Lizzie Dobbs married Jos. McAtee and moved with her parents from 'Old Bridge House Grocer's Shop' to No. 1 'Rose Cottages' where she served teas and attended to the grocery business, while her husband sold furniture in Barrow.

William & Elsie Braithwaite came to Soutergate in 1945 from Cleater Moor. William had been directed to work at the Steel Works in Barrow for the duration of the War.

They were followed by William and Mary Mounsey who were from Leeds. They left Soutergate to live at Seatoller as they were keen walkers.

In 1960 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Pattinson came to live at the shop. Phil was a woodwork teacher who left teaching to construct triamarans in the barn (now known as 'Boat Barn') situated in the garden across the road. He would construct the vessel in three parts, transport them to the shore, assemble them, and launch the boat in Kirkby Pool. While he was doing this, his wife, a Registered Nurse & Midwife, attended to the customers.

In 1964 Charles & Joan Slater took over the shop. They had been living in one of the 'Prefabs' at Marsh Garth. They had a spell of nine years at the corner shop but then moved back to Marsh Garth where they had built a house. They were the last occupants who traded as grocers.

Audrey Benson, Beryl Allonby, Alex McAtee

THE HEARSE.

The last horse-drawn hearse in Kirkby-in-Furness was kept in the 'Butching Yard' near the square in Soutergate. Mr. William (Waff) Postlethwaite who lived at Sandside provided the horse named Bessie.

The two sets of gear for the horses together with a pole in case two horses were needed were kept in a barn opposite the stable. The brasses on the gear were cleaned regularly and it had cut glass windows. The last time the horse-drawn hearse was used, as far as is known, was for the funeral of a Mr. John Atkinson Speight who lived at 'Broombank', Sandside.

Albert Cooper (Sparrow) drove the horse on that occasion.

An older hearse lived out its days in Mr. John Coward's (Smiddy Jack) garden. This also had decorative windows.

Mr. Coward used the old hearse to house hens. Although it was in a 'sorry state' it was sold in the sale held on the premises after Mr. Coward's death.



The Hearse House 2003

1851 Census - Soutergate Custom House

John Greenlaw, Head, Principal Coast Officer, Customs, born Cumberland, Whitehaven. Aged 33 years.

Margaret A., Wife, born Middlesex, Limehouse. Aged 33 years.

Margaret Q., Daughter, born Lancashire, Kirkby-Ireleth Aged 2 years.

1871 Census- Soutergate

Dwelling Unknown

James Chapman, Head, 33 years, Surgeon L.F.P.S. Glasgow. L.S.A., born Wingham, Kent.

Fanny Chapman, Surgeon's Wife, 33 years, born Isle of Wight, Newport.

Francis J., Son, 4 years, Scholar, born, Berks., Reading.

Recollections of 'Rose Cottage', Headgate.

Chamber pots were available during the night (the contents of which were preserved and used as a liquid fertiliser for onions, celery etc.). at the remotest part of the garden there was an earth closet (with twin facilities). The contents of the closet were stacked nearby – treated with fire-ashes and lime – and utilised at the appropriate time of the year as fertiliser for the trenches wherein seed potatoes were planted! This no doubt contributed to the winning of horticultural prizes by "Uncle Will"!!

The floor at 'Rose Cottage' was stone flagged overlaid with 'pegged rugs' and from time to time my Gran would remove the pegged rugs – scatter wet tea leaves over the flagged floor and sweep up the dust etc. with a brush! There was one cold water tap only and water had to be boiled on the open fire and all cooking was done on the open fire. I was told that a village pump used to be located where the north bound road out of Soutergate joins the main road. Latterly there was a public seat and a telephone kiosk there.

Gordon Calderbank

HEADGATE FARM

The Tyson family lived in 'Bridge House', Soutergate in where they had a slaughterhouse and butchery business. Mrs. Edith Farish's father and all his brothers and sisters were born there. The eldest was Robert James, then Dorothy, Minnie, Richard (father), Ethel and William. In 1927 Mr. Richard Tyson, Edith's father, bought 'Head Gate Farm' from a Mr. J. Gardner of Moor Bank, Kirkham, Lancashire who had purchased it from Mr. T. Pittaway of Yarlside Road Barrow in Furness, then Lancashire. In 1924. Mr. Tyson transferred his business from 'Bridge House' to the new improved premises. The barn was converted into a big slaughterhouse and butcher's shop and the attached buildings were used to house stock reared on the farm or purchased at Ulverston Auction Market. Some of the fields were sold off to other farmers. 'Tara House' was originally a barn in the orchard, which was also sold. Before it was developed the barn had been used to house the hearse. When a Mr. Walker owned the orchard he used to sell his fruit at the local markets. At a later date a Mr. Gross purchased the orchard from Mr. Walker and had 'Green Gates' built which he eventually sold to Mr. Bramwell whose son lives there now. The row of cottages opposite the farm were part of the 'Head Gate' estate, 'Kebroyd' and 'One Headgate Cottages' housed farm workers and 'Fieldbank' is thought to have been used for animals and the storing of corn when it was called the Stack Yard. These are now individually owned and have been changed over the years.

'**Head Gate Farmhouse**' itself was a very large building and on the left going through the gateway there used to be a huge well, which Arthur Newton's grandfather helped to build. It always offered a plentiful supply of good fresh water. However this was eventually filled in. After she was married Mrs. Farish lived in a cottage attached to the big house, and she remembers there being a blocked up door way between the two which at one time would have

allowed access from one to the other. She wonders if the cottage could perhaps have been the servant's quarters when it was a farm. When she lived there a Mr. Harold Sykes who used to call to sweep the chimney told her that when he was a young man he used to be a farm labourer there before Richard Tyson bought it.

Tyson's butchers not only had a shop at 'Head Gate', where the people from around about used to go to buy their meat and freshly baked pies, they also delivered to the surrounding area. Horse and cart was their early means of transport and they used to deliver to the Herschell Terrace, Bolton Ground, Friars Ground and High Ghyll areas, known as 'top round'. Later when they had a motorised vehicle the lower area of Sandside, Marshside, Wa-



Mr. W. Tyson, uncle of Mrs. E. Farish

They delivered twice a week to each area, Tuesdays and Fridays and Wednesdays and Saturdays. In the horse and cart days they had two horses, Bobby and Dolly and on one such delivery trip to Askam the driver of the horse and cart who it is said always stopped to have a cup of tea in one of the houses stayed rather longer than usual one day, so the horse which must have been feeling a bit neglected took itself all the way back to Kirkby.

The driver eventually decided it was home time but he had rather a shock when he looked outside and there was no horse or cart there. He had to walk all the way back and when he arrived the horse had been stabled and the cart put away. It is said he didn't ever live this down.

Mrs Farish remembers that one day when she was small her dad was going to 'Sturdy Bank' with the horse and cart, the cart toppled over and the horse had to be un-harnessed to sort it out. I wonder whatever happened to the meat?

Richard and William (Billy) Tyson were in partnership in Soutergate until 1935 when William opened a shop in Broughton which is now owned by his grandson Ian who has recently extended into the shop next door. Richard at this time opened a butcher's shop in Dalton and continued with the business at Soutergate until it was sold to Gordon Metcalfe in 1967. He used the buildings for six years and then sold them to a Mr. Marshall-Bennett who converted the buildings into the dwellings they are today. All four houses are in close proximity and are called Head Gate House, Head Gate Cottage, Head Gate Barn and Barn End.

Thank you to Edith Farish for her help with the Tyson Family information.

Anne Woods.

WILL OF ROGER HUNTER (1766)

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN

I Roger Hunter of Soutergate in the parish of Kirkby Irelyth and County palatine of Lancaster Yeoman do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following

and first of all I give and commend my Soul to Almighty God and my body to the Ground to be buried in a Christian-like manner at the discretion of my Executor hereinafter named

and as to my personal Estate which God hath bestowed upon me in this present World.

I give and dispose of as follows

and first I give to Thomas Hunter my Son one Cow and one Mare now in my possession with one Bed and Furniture of all sorts thereunto belonging with one Ghist mostly used for malt one Cart and one pair of Wheels with two pewter Dishes one Box with all my Corn and Hay except that part of Hay which lyes under my Bigg in the Barns

I give to my Daughter Mary Hunter one Feather Bed now standing in the Loft with all sorts of Close belonging to the same with two pewter Dishes

also I give to Frances Matson one pound

And I give further to my Son Thomas Hunter my larger Iron pot and one little Iron pan and my less Brass pan further it is my Will and Mind and I do here declare the same so to be that my son Thomas Hunter before named do pay all the expences of my Funeral out of the Legacies above mentioned and Bequeathed to him

and then all the rest residue and remainder of my personal Estate and Effects I give to John Hunter(s) Son whom I do hereby make nominate constitute and appoint sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament he paying and discharging all my just Debts and Legacies

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this Seventeenth Day September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Sixty-six - Roger Hunter—Signed Sealed published and Declared by the said Roger Hunter to be his last Will and Testament in the presence of us

Roger Parker - Thos. Nelson

It is thought that Roger Hunter lived near to 'Orchard Head'.