

Martin Cross Family Research

Photographs and information re Cross /Richardson Families, Grey Mare Pub, Greenhill / Greenclough Farm and Holly Vale Farm and Mill Brow Carnival

Donated by Martin Cross via Frank Plesazak : 2022

a. Six Pages of email correspondence from Frank Plesazak, Hilary Atkinson and handwritten correspondence from Martin Cross giving background information /research into his family and the local area.

Photographs are located in Photograph drawers

b. Photographs with information **All on Virtual Tour (Search : Martin Cross)**

Hand tinted black and white photograph of four generations : Small girl Doris Beard b. 1917, behind her Lizzie, her mother b1896, they are wife and daughter of George Beard and live at 2 Holly Vale. On Lizzie's left is her Mother Sarah Bradbury b1873, husband was Albert they lived at 7 Holly Vale. The older woman seated is Sara mother of Eliza b1848, Eliza was the widow of Thomas Wood Bennett and lived at Holly Vale Farm.

Black & White photograph showing lady and child outside Holly Vale Farm, date unknown. Eliza Bennett standing with unknown child.

Sepia photograph of Royal Flying Corp Airman : This is Joe Bradbury lived at Holly Vale born around 1897, later married at Mellor Church went to live in London.

Small Black and White photographs of four men : One the left is Jack Hollingworth, Jack & his father had Greenhill Farm, Mill Brow. On the right is Jimmie Rimmer had Mellor Hall Farm for years other two are not know dated August 1947.

Black & White Wedding Photograph : Doris Beard the little girl in the four generations photo with her new husband, Fred Underhill in the farmyard at Holly Vale about 1942. The car is a Manchester built Crossley.

Black & White Group with servicemen : Woman at front left is Annie Beard, born 1885 the soldier behind her is husband Daniel Basnett, after WW1 they went to live in Lancaster. All other unknown, as is the event at the back of the photograph faded writing which could be "all at Mellor"?

Black & White Group of men with horse : Eight men with horse and two dogs at the rear of the Grey Mare Pub, Glossop Road on the Corner of Monks Road (queried). The tall men holding the horse is Martin Cross's late mothers uncle, James Richardson 1874-1939. The Richardson's owned Greenhill Farm (once called Greenclough) and Holly Vale Farm for a number of years. James was married to Elizabeth 1881-1948 their daughter Mrs Nellie Coffee lived in Thorn Bank Terrace until her death circa 2000. James's brother William 1881-1916 was killed by his own horse and cart when it went out of control on Mill Bank Road. The Richardson's ran teams of heavy horses and would have regularly brought goods to and from Primrose Mill, Holly Vale Mill and Mellor Bleachworks at Hollywood End. The Richardson's have a vault at Mellor Church.

Black and white photograph of policeman on horse : This is not a real policeman but George Beard, (uncle to Martin Cross) who was born in Chadderton Lane Farm or House (queried) around 1890. He would have been involved in Mill Brow Carnival.

2nd Photograph of George as policeman ahead of band at Mellor Carnival. The lean to shown on the picture is built onto the end of the terraced row, Holly Bank, it still in place when we left Mill Brow in 1979. Alec Dawson who had Mill Brow Farm lived in that house until his death circa 1968. There was not Farmhouse! The land and buildings of Mill Brow Farm were sold off to separate buyers, and no trace of the farm remains.

Black & White photograph of group on Doorstep : Group of six people outside the Hare & Hounds whose landlord for many year was Sam Porter. On his leftdaughter Vera, the other girl is daughter Marion, gentlemen are unknown.

Small black & White photograph showing crowd inside the Hare & Hounds Public House : Gentleman leaning on the bar could be Albert Bradley, tall man in spectacles is Sam Porters son also called Sam. Nellie Coffee seated 4th from left.

Small collection of photographs of Mill Brow Carnival participants, including 3 girls, Irene & Vera Scattergood and Iren Higginbottom at Holly Vale with mill ruins in background. Young member of Beard family who lived at 2 Holly Vale hold basket of fruit.

Further information from Martin Cross (in the correspondence)

The funeral notice is that of My Great Grandfather Thomas Wood Bennett, a complete man of mystery. Copy of Microfiche entry. This man first lived at Sunhill, later on he lived with Miss Eliza Beard (later my grandmother). Lived at Holly Vale Farm for many years, and had eight surviving children all of whom were well educated and went on to live good lives. Various census he lists himself at labourer, colliery worker, road mender etc., yet his will proved in 1901 he left land and properties in trust for his then wife and surviving children.