

ARTHUR HERBERT CARR. 1877-1973

Arthur Herbert Carr was born on 28th May 1877 to Samuel George Carr, born 1843, and his second wife Ann.

The family lived at Catwick where Samuel was foreman in the brickyard. In 1891 Arthur received "The Pilgrim's Progress" as a token of respect from the Wesleyan Sunday school. Samuel was killed in an accident in 1894. Ann was an accomplished seamstress and as a child Arthur carried her sewing machine to farms where she lived in temporarily making new clothes for the families.

In his youth Arthur excelled at sport. He learned to skate on Leven Canal using it as the quickest way to school in winter. Later he won skating competitions on Burton Constable Lake. He was a competent high jumper and sprinter and in Tanton's Athletic Report of 1896 he is recorded as a winner, at that time residing in Hull. From a young age he owned a bicycle and on an outing with his father remembered seeing Withernwick windmill with one sail.

He married Alice Matilda Marshall, born 1876, on 2nd January 1900. She had attended school at Sigglethorne and had at some time lived at Tickton where her brother, James William, lost his life aged 18 in an accident at the River Hull bridge.

The 1901 census records Arthur as carpenter at Rise Hall. At one time they lived in the Round Cottage. Four children were born at Rise and a further three children in Mill Row, Withernwick. The eldest son, George, emigrated to Australia.

Arthur was a Joiner, Wheelwright and Undertaker. He replaced and enlarged the shop window at Morris's perhaps when the Post Office was relocated there. He also had contract work for property owned by Trinity House. In the late 1940s and early 1950s in addition to jobbing work he constructed many sectional animal houses in his yard. These were dismantled and, if small enough, loaded on to his handcart to be pushed to the required site for reassembly. The farmers collected the larger ones by tractor and trailer. He was adept at fashioning new spokes and rim sections for wagon wheels and I remember being taken on the handcart to the smithy for Wilf Skelton to refit the hoop. It fascinated me watching his scoring and tapping when cutting glass to perfect measurement. I never saw him cut himself although there was a huge puffball hanging in the workshop as a styptic for emergencies! Wood was delivered weekly on Fridays by Horsley Smith's of Hull after being ordered on Tuesdays through their representative, Mr Timmins.

A death locally meant other work was postponed. The coffin boards, always in

supply in the workshop, needed cutting to size before assembly. Alice Carr dressed the coffin and the furnishings were ordered.

from King and Company in Hull. These usually arrived by parcel delivery on the EYMS bus service. The hearse and driver were hired from Annison's of Hull and bearers were mostly villagers. John Saltmer told me how formerly when wagons were used to carry the coffin he led the horses. Once the funeral was over, the top hat and coat were brushed and stored until next needed. The last funeral Arthur organised was in 1960.

Saw and chisel sharpening took place on Saturday morning followed by sweeping and tidying, but after midday no work was considered until Monday.

At one time Arthur was a member of the Order of the order of Forresters and possibly held office as he owned a very decorative sash of the Order. During the war he provided soldiers with small offcuts with which to make toys. He bought and heightened the property which became his home and workshop and in 1924 he bought Spetch Cottages from John Hiram Todd (Tong?) and Fred Little. The tenants then were Cornelius Nightingale and John Arksey. The following year he sold the strip of land north of 2 Spetch Cottages to Ellis's. He sold Spetch Cottages in 1937. He also owned Easton Cottage where Connie Barnfather once lived.

When mains water arrived in the village he refused to have the pump removed and the taste of the water was certainly superior to the tap supply.

Another granddaughter, Esther Cunningham nee Carr, remembers the tradition of his calling at Hull market and buying a seven pound block of cheese on his return from visits to his sister in Lincolnshire.!

At 8pm each day he left home for the Falcon. He liked his pint and was a stalwart of the domino school. In later life he passed much of his time watching life on the street and chatting to those who walked it.

I was privileged to spend much of my childhood with Grandad and regret not recording his tales of the Nightingales, Omans and other names of the past. He continued to use many old words to the end eg. trod for pavement and carriage for a pram. In the whole of his long life I never heard him swear.

Alice Gingell (nee Jennison)