

## **GARFORTH – 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES**

Extract from a short history of Garforth and the surrounding area. Garforth Publications by Garforth Historical Society. The numbers refer to pages in Proud Garforth where photos can be seen of the subject.

Garforth stands on a high ridge between the rivers Aire and Wharfe and although occupied earlier these are the years which saw growth into a village and then town. It was mainly agriculture but changed to coal mining after the Enclosure Act of 1810 giving landowners the rights to minerals below their land was passed.

Where the A1/M1 Link Road M1 Jct 47) is there was evidence of the Anglo-Saxons and at Cedar Ridge (A642) Roman remains were found. Garforth is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as having a church. There is also evidence of coal being extracted as early as 1262. OS maps from the 1800's show farms, nurseries, orchards, fruit fields, quarries, sand pits and coal mines. The area was divided into four being East, Moor, Church and West Garforth.

### **EAST GARFORTH**

East Garforth grew around the Isabella Pit (1833-1925) named after the eldest daughter of Richard Oliver Gascoigne. Cottages were built for the workers who moved into the area at Newhold and where Brierlands and Firth Fields stand. In 1834 the Leeds – Selby railway was built with a station at Garforth (76/77), at the opposite of the bridge where the present one is. Mr. Gascoigne had a railway line built linking Garforth to Aberford and collecting coal from Sisters, Isabella and Elizabeth pits, known as the Fly Line. Later passengers were carried, connecting Aberford to Leeds via Garforth and bringing in schoolchildren. It closed in 1924.

The Gascoigne sisters had the Colliery School (52) (later named East Garforth) built in 1843. Opposite the school a Mission Church was founded by the Church Army in 1910 which was closed in 1943. The Council had the Crescent and Oval built in 1922 to accommodate the growing population.

During the First World War, near to Sturton Lane, there was a Search Light Unit and a Gun Site during the Second World War (126). This area was surrounded by agricultural and open spaces land. The people of East Garforth always (and to some degree today) always thought of themselves separate from Garforth.

### **MOOR GARFORTH**

This area grew around the Sisters Pit opened in 1843 – 1922, to the north of the railway line the cottages were named Sisters Villas. The Managers house was also here. The slag from the pit was known as Pit Hills and was a draw for children to play on after the pit closed.

At Town End the row of houses was called Bank Row as the last house was used by the Yorkshire Penny Bank (121). Behind here was an orchard and blacksmith. The Feast Field was behind here where most of the population enjoyed festivities once a year. It was open Friday to Monday with a church service being held on the Sunday. Also at Town End stood one of the many pumps in Garforth (56). At the end of Bank Row was the Seaton Brothers coal merchants (109). Before the Country Club was Gray's Flour Mill. The opposite side of Aberford Road, going east from Town End, where the flats are today, was the site of Marshalls Brick Yard. The Picture House (110), which stood behind this site, was closed in 1966, to become Hornby Skewes' Warehouse and now Pease Hardware. Between the Miners Arms and the Gascoigne was Tom Pickering (the butchers) house and farm (101). This was demolished for the entrance to Oak Estate which was finished in 1938 (extended later). On Station Road there were two farms – Crummocks, formerly Green's Nurseries and Atkinsons. The empty plot at the top of Wakefield Road was once an orchard and rhubarb sheds before the garage was built.

There were cottages on Barrowby Lane, one of which was used for Methodist meetings. The first house on the right under the bridge on Barwick Road was the "Gas House" with a large gasometer.

Going down Wakefield Road the Salem Chapel was built in 1872. Gowlands Garage used to be Littlers Garage and in the 1950/60's housed a Coffee Bar. In a field behind here a Travelling Theatre would pitch a tent years earlier.

**MAIN STREET** - this was mainly residential with some houses (e.g. Pease, Sparks and Stevensons opening their front rooms to retail). Going down from Town End on the left were underground public toilets then the Police Station (57) stood where Pease car park is. The Co-op had a grocers, butchers and drapery shops and then there was a fish shop (former bakers)(62). The Welfare Hall was built by the Gascoignes for the miners and held a variety of activities including regular dances. Next there was Colliery Row (65) known locally as Long Curtain Row (now the parade of shops). There were fields and some houses ending with the Parochial School on the corner of Church Lane (built around 1865) (50) now the Medical Centre.

Going from Town End down Main Street (formerly Briggate) (56) Backhouse Butchers was on the corner followed by houses down to Kensington Terrace (59). This was adjacent to Main Street and consists of 8 houses. They were built by George Rex for each of his children. He started as a joiner on the Parlington Estate and then worked for himself. The rooms at the top of the archway were his showrooms. It is said they delivered furniture by wheelbarrow. He had the next row of houses down Main Street which became Pease, Chemist and Gas Board office. He also built the New Market public house. There were more houses, some of which became Spencers Bakery and Sparks. Marshall Terrace ran adjacent to the Main Street with Baldersons Cobblers (64) on the corner. Marshalls Brick Yard was where Halliday Court now stands (27). Coupland Road was where the Salvation Army

Citadel stood (36). The houses between here and Barley Hill Road have seen many changes of use over the years. Garforth Liberal Club began as a house before several extensions. There was a Childrens Room where crisps and pop could be bought while the adults could enjoy a pint in the bar. The site of Nisa started as T.B. Smith, General Supply Stores, then housed the Post Office, Council and Police (70). Next door was the library.

Barley Hill Road (formerly Occupation Lane) had a quarry where the car park is now. This was clay for Marshalls Brick Yard. A row of terraced houses stood behind here. There were a few dwellings on this side but it was mainly open spaces. The Recreation Ground was created after the school was built with the field behind used for sports. Opposite the quarry was Barlows Crisp Factory. There was St Joseph's Church-cum-school built in 1883 later to become a carpet warehouse before being demolished for housing. The Catholic congregation moved to St Benedict's in 1967. The first church built here in 1964 was demolished by a storm (43/44).

Strawberry Avenue was land used for growing strawberries and other fruits. Barley Hill Infants School was built in 1907(53). It started as the Council School then Garforth Secondary Modern before being an Infants School. Garforth Working Men's Club and Institution was built in 1865. The Gascoignes had it built as a reward for their miners who did not strike that year. Rooms were used for lectures, magic lantern shows, chess and other social activities. It held the first library in Garforth.

Between Barley Hill Road and Selby Road rhubarb and strawberries were grown. Land now gone for housing.

### **CHURCH GARFORTH**

This obviously grew around the church. The present church is thought to be the third on this site, built in 1845 (34). Where the Podger stands was Atkinsons farm. Between here and Selby Road it was agricultural land and Glebeland which belonged to the church. On the other side of Ninelands Lane was the Trench Pit sunk in 1899 (12). This was named after Isabella's husband who changed his surname from Trench to Gascoigne when they married. Opposite the church, before the Oak Estate was built in 1938, was agricultural land, nurseries and orchards. The Old Rectory next to the church was demolished in 1972. Garden parties and such were held there regularly (102). This area is now built on. The Grange stood where the opening to the Grange Estate is. At the end of Church Lane were properties which housed a hairdresser, newsagent and the very popular Shackletons Bakery (112). At the opposite side of the road was the Parochial School built in 1865 (46/50).

Garforth Cricket Club was formed in 1877 and played on a field in Parlington before acquiring the ground on Church Lane. The present Brunswick Methodist Chapel opened in 1872 and stands on the site of an earlier and much smaller chapel from 1806. In the 1950's schoolchildren had sunray and dental treatment here.

Views of Church Lane can be found on pages 122-123.

## **WEST GARFORTH**

Garforth Old Hall (95) was the centre of West Garforth. It was demolished for the widening of Selby Road which never happened. It was opposite the Gaping Goose. Going down the same side of the road towards Leeds the land was agricultural and open spaces. Crossing the road at Garforth Bridge stands Hawthorn Terrace. Behind this stood Naylor Pollard & Co. Overall Factory (28), known as the Shirt Factory. This building in 1865 became a glue factory but is thought to have been built earlier.

This area is thought to be the origin of the name Garforth from old Norse words meaning a ford by a triangular piece of land. The ford being Sheffield Back which can be seen on the roundabout.

On the corner of the Turnpike Roads of Selby and Wakefield stood the Old George Coaching Inn. This is recorded as being in use in 1822. On the opposite corner Fittons Garage was built. The next building of note is the Gaping Goose, another coaching inn. Formerly named the White Swan this was also known to be in use in 1822 but is thought to be the oldest pub in Garforth. Land between the junction of Garforth Bridge and that of Lidgett Lane held cottages and farms. The bottom part of Lidgett Lane was given to strawberry fields.

At the top of Garforth Cliff stood the Fever Hospital where Scarlet Fever and other infectious diseases were treated. Around this area were fields and agriculture. Coming back down Selby Road the area was also open spaces. The junction at the bottom of the hill known as Charley Sweeps Corner was named after the local chimney sweep.

Further down the road stood the large Hawkshaw House (103). In the census of 1811 it is recorded as being a boarding school for boys. T. B. Smith the shopkeeper lived here at one time. It later became known as Leylands, a farm and riding stables. The owners held yearly garden parties in the fields at the back in the 1960/70's.

Garforth House was built by the Moorhouse Jam family. In the 1970's it became a "zoo" known locally as The Monkey House although there were not many exotic animals anywhere to be seen. The owner who opened it, Olga, still lives there today.

Now we are back to the Old Hall.