

Reg Williamson's Glass Plate Photographs

Reg Williamson took photographs in Great Ayton over many years, doing most of his own developing and printing. These 118 digital images were taken from a collection of glass plate photographs discovered and rescued from the attic of Laurence Dilcock's Pharmacy in Park Square by his son, John Dilcock, 23 Station Road, Great Ayton.

Reg's Williamson's daughter (Mrs Marjorie Rees of Pendine, Camarthenshire) and grandson (Des Rees) identified the people in the Williamson family photographs. The remaining identifications are by residents of Great Ayton, although many of the images have not yet been identified. Any additional identifications, or corrections to those existing, will be gratefully received.

This presentation has been assembled by Ian Pearce.

Who was Reg Williamson?

Reg was born in 1893 at Yarm, one of nine children. He was an apprentice chemist from 1910 to 1914, then served in First World War, reaching the rank of Second Lieutenant. In 1919, he married Malvinia Venie and came to live in Great Ayton, on Romany Road, in the early 1920s. Reg rented a small pharmacy in Park Square, but it flooded several times and he bought a larger premises, also in Park Square “R.S. WILLIAMSON, PHARMACY”



About 1927 Reg and Malvinia moved to “South View” on High Green, close to the pharmacy. They had three children: Marjorie, Howard and Colin. In addition to running the pharmacy, Reg became the established village photographer, much in demand for weddings and christenings.

Always an active person, the Second World War opened up new opportunities. In addition to the normal business of the pharmacy, Reg took up the to manufacture of preparations no longer available commercially. He developed Williamson's Egg Emulsion, Williamson's Cologne Skin Cream, also face cream and various pills. But his most important role, and one that was a secret even from his own family, was as a member of Great Ayton's Auxiliary Unit. This was part of a secret army who would carry out acts of sabotage in the event of a German invasion. His daughter Marjorie remembers "We thought he was in the Home Guard, as everyone did, and I didn't know about the secret army until about forty years after the war, when the information was released. The group used to go up to the moors where they had ammunition hidden under Roseberry Topping in the old mines, preparing for a possible invasion."

After working in Great Ayton for thirty years or so, he retired and moved to Wales, leaving the box of glass plate photographs in the attic above the pharmacy. Reg died in 1980. The pharmacy had been taken over by Laurence Dilcock, whose son John discovered the box and digitised the photographs you see on the following pages.



Judging by the dress, this seems to be the oldest photograph in the collection. In fact the older photographs, some of which carry dates, are a mystery since they pre-date the time Reg came to Great Ayton in the early 1920s. The occasion and location of the above picture are unknown, but the seated figure fourth from the left could be Waynman Dixon of Ayton House. If so, this might be the opening of the Conservative Club in 1910.

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"AFS" badge
Ayton Friends' School



A teacher?

Why are there three different styles of jacket?

What's the age range across the group?

Looking at old photographs always raises questions

3



Ayton Friends' School Team 1914-15



4

Ayton Friends' School Team 1916

5



Ayton Friends' School Team 1918-9

6



Ayton Friends' School Team

7



Ayton Friends' School Team



9



Friends' School Hockey Team



Ayton Friends' School Group



Ayton Friends' School Group



12

Ayton Friends' School Group



Ayton Friends' School Group



Great Ayton 1931

15



16



17



**Ayton Friends' School
Gymnastics Demonstrations**



18



19

20

















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Back, L to R: Elspeth Johnstone, Anne Postill, Unknown, Beryl Shaw, Mrs Craig, Eileen Shaw, Christine Pellant, ? Shaw, Joan Ridley
 Middle, L to R: Eileen Brown, Anne Featherstone, Pauline Ellis, Dot Swalwell, Margaret Rowe, Joan Parvin, Betty Shaw, Mary Wood
 Front, L to R: Mavis Wright, Ena Peacock, Judith Edwards, Mary Stevens, Unknown, Edith Beasley, Inez Kell

Edward Kitching School, Girls' Life Brigade

28



29



30



31

Unknown group, but possibly Watson Johnstone at rear right



32



33

Standing, L to R: Ann Kitching, Harold Kitching, Prue Kitching
Seated, L to R: Colonel Kitching, Mrs Kitching

The Kitching family at Ayton Firs

34



35



36



37



Robin Robson, Joyce Robson, Mary Robson
(Mary Robson was later Mary Petch)

The Robson children



Ernie Tanfield

Ernie was chauffeur to
Miss Dorman at Newton Hall



"Sonny" George Kitching

He is standing at the lower footbridge, across the Leven, at Low Green. As far as is known, he was not related to the Kitchings of Ayton Firs and The Grange



Ruth Coates, Bernard Coates, Billy Coates with dog, Milly Coates, Harold Coates

Bernard Coates and family, behind the Friends' School buildings

Jim Simpson
(worked for Henry Kitching at The Grange)

Percy Simpson





Fred Johnson

Fred Johnson had the butcher's shop which was demolished to make the archway through from the High Street. His house next door, now McColl's (2012) could be the background to this photograph. He grew fruit trees up the front walls but eventually killed them by too much pig manure!



44



45



46



47

Christ Church Wedding, presumably at the time of WW2

48



**Wedding of Cyril Wyatt and
Norah Ridley**

Billy and Mary Ridley, Unknown, Cyril and Norah, Kathleen Ridley



49



50





52

Mr Robinson, unknown, Ossy Johnson, unknown, unknown, unknown, George Bailey, Eliza.



53



54



55

Wedding group outside the WI Hall





57

Front row: Jack Farndale, Laura's mother, Len Lamb, Laura Lamb (née Ingledew), George Ingledew, Betty Ingledew

Wedding of Len Lamb and Laura Ingledew



58



59

Walter Marsay, Mary Benson, Arthur Marsay, Ana Marsay (née Wilson or Williamson), Eva Wilson, Harold Mussett

Wedding of Arthur and Ana Marsay at Kirkby Church

The wedding took place in September 1945. Arthur and Ana spent their honeymoon at Scarborough.

They lived at Stanley Grove



Wedding of Sandy ? And Edith Dunning. The little bridesmaid in the centre front is Barbara Gray.

John Stringer



Wedding of Edna Robson and Mr Stowe

He was the headmaster of Witton School.
The wedding took place at the Great Ayton
Methodist Church.

Bill Smith



62

Wedding of Laurie Smith from Easby and Miss Bennington

Mary Baines and Lawrence Kitching Jack Readman (Bell Man)



63

Eileen Ingram

Daisy Moon

Wedding of Mary Baines and Lawrence Kitching

Unknown, Marjorie Tate (née Heaviside), Mrs Sigsworth, Len Simpson, Joan Sigsworth, Jack Sigsworth



64

Wedding of Len Simpson and Joan Sigsworth

Jack Sigsworth owned a butcher's shop where the Wine Lodge was, opposite Hollygarth. He went to Australia in the 1920s, later returning to Great Ayton.



65

Harry Honeyman and Norah Clarkson



66

Ronnie Reid and Ruby Lack



67

Doris Dring





68

Alf Stockdale Gladys Stockdale Jack Pinkney Myra Anderson John Anderson
née Burton née Pinkney (he lost a leg in WW2)



69

Stanley Keene & Mrs Keene, Malcolm Linklater, Jack Stevens, Joyce Keene, Sadie Stevens, Mrs Stevens Alf Stevens
Stanley Keene, a cobbler, was a very good dancer. Sadie Stevens was Jack Steven's sister .

Wedding of Jack Stevens and Joyce Keene



Wedding of Edward Simpson and Marjorie Pearson

Edward Simpson ran the Simpson's Potato
and Milk Collection business at Battersby

Ted Tiplady
(Ted was Sir John Fry's butler)

Ted Tiplady's sister Rhoda





72

Miss Cundy and Mr Peacock



73

Gladys Harbottle and Reg Lowe

Gladys was the daughter of William Harbottle, the undertaker



74

Standing, left to right: Unknown, John Fry, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Penrose Fry



75

Seated, left to right: Wilfrid Fry, Lady Fry, Sir John Fry, Unknown, Unknown

The Fry family outside Cleveland Lodge



76



77

Lady Fry on the left



78



79



Another of Major Cundy's daughters
who married a Pickersgill

80



81



82



83

Howard Williamson
(Reg Williamson's son)



Isobel (Bella) Fall
Sid Fall's daughter

Mrs Isobel Fall
Sid Fall's wife

Sid Fall
(Civil Defence)

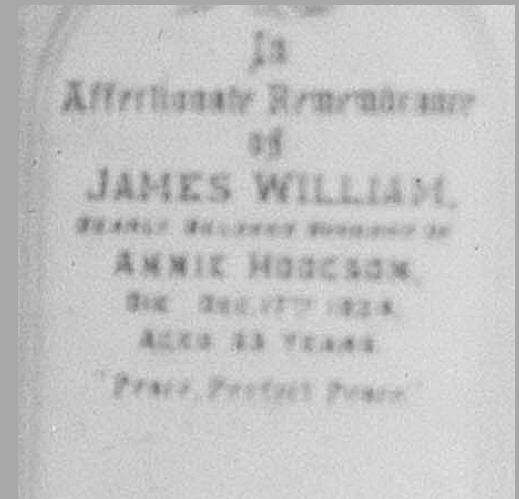
Bill Fall's wife

Bill Fall
Sid Fall's son

Bill Fall joined the Middlesbrough Police and was on duty in the Cannon Street riots



Peter Packer from Redcar and Mary Robinson
outside the Congregational Chapel in 1942
(The chapel was used as a NAAFI during WW2)



87



1919

88



89



90



91





92



93



94

Christening at All Saints' Church



95

The British School



Ernest Hind Lena Hind Grandma Hind Marjorie Rees Reg Williamson
Reg's brother-in-law and his wife (Marjorie's grandmother) (Reg's daughter)



97

Howard Williamson Colin Williamson

Reg Williamson family photograph, Wallsend 1941

Back row, left to right: Lillian Biddle, Jack Blackburn, Celia Norton with Gwen Evans, Grandma Hind, Venie Williamson, Reg Williamson, Jack Williamson, Gladys Blackburn, Fran Williamson

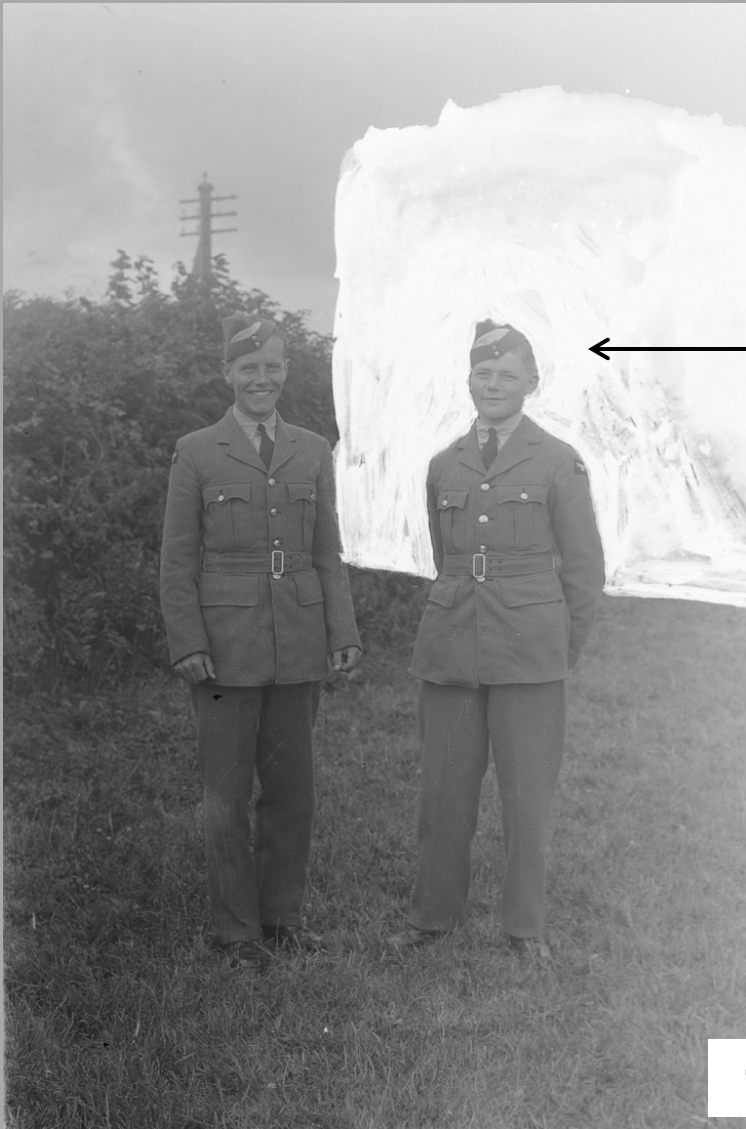


98

Front row, left to right: Raymond Blackburn, Colin Williamson, Marjorie Williamson, Howard Williamson

Reg Williamson's Silver Wedding, 1944, taken in Hall Fields





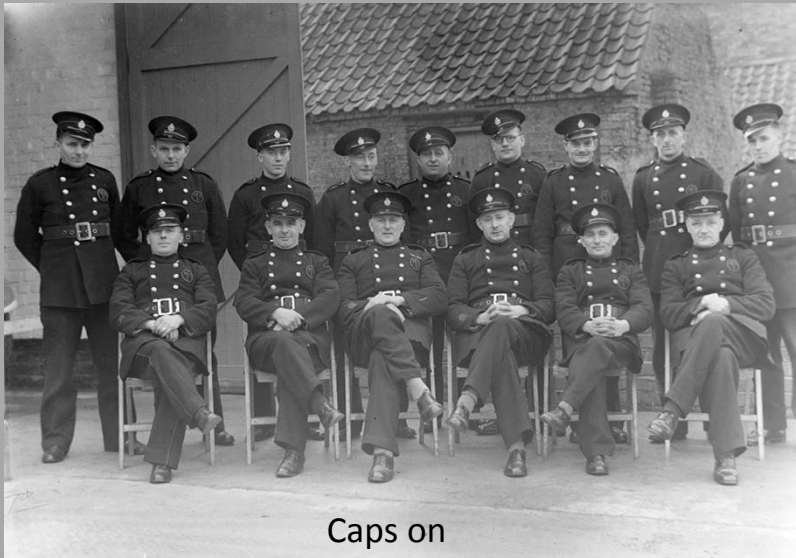
Unknown Air Cadets

Why has the background been obliterated?

Possibly security reasons?

What was obliterated – an aircraft nose?

What are the uniforms?



Caps on

101



Caps off

102



Great Ayton Auxiliary Fire Service

(next to Edward Kitching School)

Cyril or Sid Swales

102



Fred Gibson

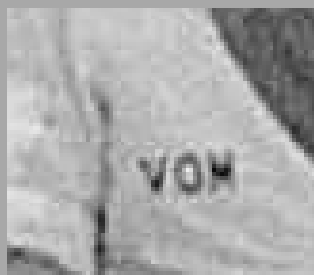
George Hogarth

Great Ayton Auxiliary Fire Service (next to Edward Kitching School)



103

The man in the centre of the back row is Bob



Vale of Mowbray started baking pork pies at Leeming Bar in 1928

104



The Mount

Possibly the Red House
although questioned



105

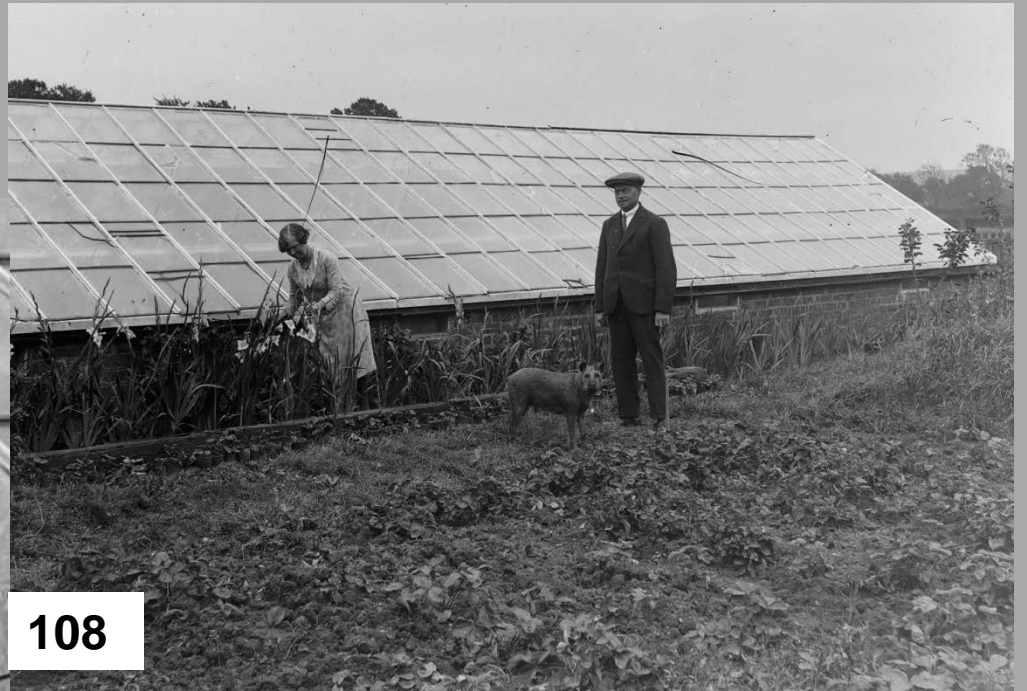


106

The new Great Ayton Women's Institute Hall



107



108



109

The last case of James Cook's parents' cottage, packed ready for export to Australia



110

Timber from
Ingleby Manor



111

112



New cattle stalls at East Angrove Farm



Field of onions

113



One of the supports for the aerial ropeway from the Ayton Banks Ironstone Mine , through Cliff Rigg Woods to the main line sidings

114



Believed to be stones at Kildale Church

In order to avoid possible offence, would
ladies and others of a nervous disposition
please now avert their gaze



116

117



118

