

Shincliffe Teachers

Some of the Teachers at Shincliffe School in the first half of the twentieth century

Shincliffe has had various school buildings over the years, and these are described on the Schools page of the website: www.slhs.uk/schools. Below, we outline some of the staff from the first half of the 20th century.

Fig 1 below is a school photograph taken in 1918 or 1919. The staff are Lottie Dazley, Gertrude Barrass, John Carr (Headmaster) and Eliza Gallifant. John Carr had taught two of the teachers in the picture (Lottie Dazley and Eliza Gallifant), as well as his successor as headmaster, Harry Appleton.



Fig. 1: School Staff 1918-1919 - Lottie Dazley, Gertrude Barrass, John Carr (Headmaster), and Eliza Gallifant.

John Morton Carr¹ was a hugely influential figure in the village. He lived in School House for many years before moving to 4 Wood View, opposite the current site of the Poplar Tree Garden Centre. He was married, had four daughters (three of whom became teachers) and two children who died in infancy.

John Carr retired from his post as Headmaster of Shincliffe School on 31st October 1921 after 50 years of teaching. He was the Head during the Great War of 1914-18, a period that saw some of his former pupils lose their lives in the fighting. Details of some of these men can be found on our website. One can only imagine the grief he must have shared with the bereaved families. The news of his retirement

¹ There is a separate, longer article about John Carr on the website.

led to a fulsome article in the Berwickshire News and General Advertiser on 17th January 1922. He had been born and raised in Berwick. It reported that:

“Throughout those 50 years all who have come in contact with Mr Carr readily agree that they gained much from that privilege. Duty has always been his motto, duty primarily not to himself but the children given into his charge – a charge nobly fulfilled to over three thousand children. The many boys and girls who have had the benefit and pleasure of Mr Carr’s influence are unanimous in their love and gratification for all that he meant and still means to them.”

Carr was succeeded by another former pupil, **Harry Appleton**², seen here in Fig 2. He had attended the school as a boy, won a scholarship to the grammar school in Durham and went on to train as a teacher at St. John’s College in York. Harry was appointed Headmaster in 1921. He continued to serve in that role (except for military service during World War II), until his retirement.



Fig 2: School staff early 1920s – Harold Hoggart, Lottie Dazley, Gertrude Barras, Harry Appleton, and Eliza Gallifant

On the right of the picture at the back is **Lottie Dazley**. Lottie had been a classmate of Harry’s and she, too, passed her exam to attend a grammar school in Durham. Like Harry, she returned to teach in Shincliffe and remained there throughout her career. She had been brought up in Shincliffe Station, just off the A177 heading towards Bowburn, where her father was a signaller and then the Stationmaster. In 1939 she could be found in Number 4 Roseacre, just a few yards from her place of employment. Living with her was her sister, Aileen, husband, Richard Shaw, and their daughter, Eve. Lottie and Harry were to retire on the same day in 1955.

² There is a separate, longer article about Harry Appleton on the website.

In the 1911 Census, Lottie was already working as an elementary schoolteacher, presumably in Shincliffe. Her father was a widower. His wife, Jane, had died in 1907. Lottie was one of six sisters, and she was the second oldest. Her ability to earn some money would have been crucial for the family. Ernest Dazley had been born in Bedfordshire. He married Jane White in Kelloe in 1888. Her father, Thubron White, was a quarryman living in Garmondsway, now a tiny hamlet just off the A177 on the way to Sedgfield. Dazley's father, Frederick, was a miner in Whitworth Colliery.

Another sister, Elsie, married Thomas Henry Beckwith, a railway signalman who had fought with the DLI in WW1. Jane married Henry Stainsby. They had three children, one of whom, Olive, would also go on to be a teacher. She became Headmistress of Laurel Avenue Primary School in Gilesgate, Durham, and died in High Shincliffe in 2022.

Finally, Emily, the youngest sister, married Harold Hoggart in 1935 and it is to Harold and his background that we now turn.

Harold Riley Hoggart was born in 1902 in Burythorpe, near Malton, North Yorkshire. His mother, Annie (nee Riley), was a widow in 1911. She had been born in Rawalpindi in India. The Census of that year shows that she was a schoolteacher. Her husband, John, had been a joiner just like his father. Annie was working as a pupil teacher in Sheffield in 1881 at the age of eighteen.

Harold Hoggart and his wife, Emily, were living in 2 Roseacre in 1939 in the same terrace as Lottie and Aileen. They moved to Richmond in Surrey. Harold died in 1980. His wife predeceased him in 1973.

Gertrude Barrass, on the front left of the picture above, was born in Kirkleatham in 1869. Her mother had been born in Battersea, South London. Her father was a footman/waiter and the couple married in the capital. Gertrude was one of four girls. Her sister, Harriet, was also a teacher and married Charles Perry, a man who also worked in primary schools. Gertrude taught Shincliffe children for a total of forty-three years and retired in 1934. She lived with her mother and sister in 5 Flass Street in Durham for a number of years before she died in 1956. She never married and left her will to Leonard Perry, her nephew. Gertrude taught Harry, Lottie, and Eliza.

Eliza Gallifant (sometimes recorded as "Gallifent") was born in Shincliffe in 1893. Her father was a brickmaker and had been born in Essex. Eliza was one of eight siblings. Eliza must have been a keen and enthusiastic pupil because she was working as an elementary school teacher at Shincliffe as a seventeen-year-old in 1911. Like Gertrude Barrass and Lottie Dazley, she never married and died at the age of thirty-six in 1930. She was living with her mother in Prospect Terrace in Shincliffe at the time of her death.

Our final picture, Fig 3, below shows four familiar figures in addition to Lionel Kellie (sometimes "Kelly"). The date is uncertain, but is assumed to be between 1926 when Kellie would have been 18 and 1930 when Miss Gallifant died.



Fig 3: School staff mid to late 1920s – Harry Appleton, Lionel Kellie. Gertrude Barras, Eliza Gallifant, and Lottie Dazley.

Lionel Elliott Kellie was born in Coxhoe in 1908 and went on to become a teacher. In 1911 he was living in Coxhoe with his maternal grandmother, one of her seven daughters and two of his cousins. It may be significant that in the 1911 Census the parents of Harry Appleton, who from 1921 would be the Headmaster of Shincliffe School, were living in what was then Pond Row, Shincliffe Colliery, where they were neighbours of Margaret Robson - who was Lionel Kellie's aunt - and her family.

We then lose sight of Lionel again for a few years until he turns up in Surrey in the mid-1930s, where he was living and working at Upper Lodge in Bushy Park, an open-air school for London's East End boys with respiratory diseases. Within a few years he moved to another residential school in Surrey, Banstead (Beechholme), which had been founded as a home for impoverished children from Kensington and Chelsea, a borough of London. After serving in the Army Educational Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant in the final year of the war, Lionel returned to Banstead where he was the junior school Headmaster. A Google search for "Beechholme Residential School" brings up some amazing memories of the now-demolished school. One pupil remembered him for his very shiny shoes and distinctive moustache, which he correctly surmised indicated military experience.

By the end of the 1960s, Lionel Kellie had moved back to the north-east where he was Head of Dukeshouse Wood Camp in Hexham, an outdoor centre for children and which is still a going concern. He died in 1995, and his wife in December 2020 in Hexham.

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