

Cockey Moor in World War 2

With additional information from Research by Ken Bullock

(from his book "The Story of Cockey Moor otherwise Ainsworth")

1939:

- In June Mr Balderstone, the headmaster of the Day School, resigned. He was succeeded in the August by Mr Clarence Walker. During the summer holidays. Air raid shelters were erected. Three evacuees were admitted to the school.
- In December, the air raid sirens were sounded and the children were taken to the shelters
- The Ainsworth Band broke up and the band instruments were handed over to the local Home Guard



1939:

This article appeared in the local paper



A FLASH-BACK TO THE "GAY NINETIES."

Back row: J. T. Brooks, Jack Brooks, A. Tootill, A. Openshaw, P. Openshaw, F. Wardle, W. Greenhalgh.

Middle row: W. N. Rayson (Bandmaster), Ellis Haslam, J. Hutchinson, Levi Brooks, W. A. Greenhalgh, P. Brooks, A. Hampson, J. Blackmore.

Front row: James Rayson, Alf. Hardman, Albert Haslam, O. Partington, Amos Brooks, F. Greenhalgh, J. Horrocks.

This photograph of the members of the Ainsworth Brass Band, taken about fifty years ago, brings to mind the days when village communities took a special pride and interest in the activities of such organisations. When Christmas Day comes some of the older end in the village will doubtless recall its music in the lanes of the district during the Festival.

Although the history of this band goes back to a much earlier date, the above personnel carried on the traditions of its earlier representation, playing at galas, demonstrations, and numerous outdoor events peculiar to the time both in and around the district. Some local wag once dubbed them the "Cockey Moor

Hussars" by reason of a uniform introduced at one period which had a military touch about it, but the village generally agreed as to the Band's usefulness.

As an instance of the Band's faithfulness to its engagements there is the record of its loyalty to one church in Bury. It headed Holy Trinity Whit-Friday procession for close on half a century. Moreover, in the same afternoon it returned to the village to take part in a similar demonstration.

The late Mr. Wm. N. Rayson was a devoted leader and tutor to these "village youngsters," and much of the Band's progress was due to his personal sacrifice and unbounded enthusiasm for this type of music.

Of the twenty-two bandsmen pictured above, only five are now living—Jim Rayson, J. Blackmore, O. Partington, W. A. Greenhalgh and A. Hampson. These also have since laid aside their instruments, but still reflect on the days when "Cockey Moor Band" was one of the outstanding milestones in their lives.

The Band continued its career until the outbreak of the present war, and the bandroom down Schoolside—now the temporary home of the Boy Scouts—will, no doubt, when happier times return, again resound to the spirited marches played by a more youthful combination of village instrumentalists.

1940:

In January, Ainsworth village was snowed up for about a week. Troops stationed at Lowercroft helped to clear the snow. As a result of the snowstorms, there was a shortage of food in the village shops. It was said that in some places the snow almost reached the top of the lamp standards

The Water Tower
was completed



First rose queen event - in garden of
Davenport Fold Farm, Arthur Lane

1941:

Because of the danger of incendiary bombs being dropped on the church, a stirrup pump, ladder and sand bucket were purchased as part of the air raid precautions

The original Guide Unit, started by Stella Metcalfe



1942: The Wedding between James Albert Horrobin and Sarah Ann Horrobin took place at Christ Church Ainsworth on the 18th of April 1942.



Jim and Sally Horrobins Wedding
 Back Row
 Minnie Wood, Charles and Mary Wood,
 Middle Row
 ? Sally Horrobin, Jim Horrobin, Polly Horrobin,
 Lenard Horrobin.
 Front Row
 John Kay Wood, Sally Spinks, Emma Fletcher nee
 (Horrobin,) Alice Wood, Lizzie and husband.

Marrriages solemnized at The PARISH CHURCH, in the PARISH of AINSWORTH, in the County of Lancashire.

No.	When Solemnized	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession, Occupation at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Profession	Rank or Profession of Father
489	18 th April 1942	James Albert Horrobin	21	Bachelor	H. M. Jones 33 "Sadden" Brook 8	Fred Horrobin	Labourer
		Sarah Ann Wood	22	Spinster	Cloth looker Taylor Lane	John Kay Wood	Labourer

Marrried in The PARISH CHURCH, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by

This Marriage was solemnized between us: James Albert Horrobin in the presence of us: L. Horrobin
Sarah Ann Wood Minnie Wood

Witness M. Metcalf Vicar



Florence Buntin, Tom Shepherd and May (Mary) Shepherd, outside the shop on Bury Old Road (second house down – towards Bolton – from the bungalow opposite the Methodist chapel (date unknown)

1943:

Because of a gale which swept the village in April, damage was done to the front of Ainsworth Methodist Chapel. Repair work was carried out at a cost of £400



Arthur Smith, who lived at Titus Cottage and worked in the Co-op until he was 18.

He was in the East Lancs regiment and when the Lancashire Fusiliers came to relieve them, the first person he saw was his friend from the village, Billy Barlow

1944:

- 2 Well Street was sold to the Conservative club
- It was decided to use what was known as the Whitehead pew (a private pew on the left hand side of the sanctuary in Christ Church) as a Choir Vestry.
- Miss Haslam, headmistress of the Infant's school, resigned. She had held this position for thirty years. With her resignation, the infant school ceased to be a separate department and was merged again with the remainder of the Day School



panto

1945:

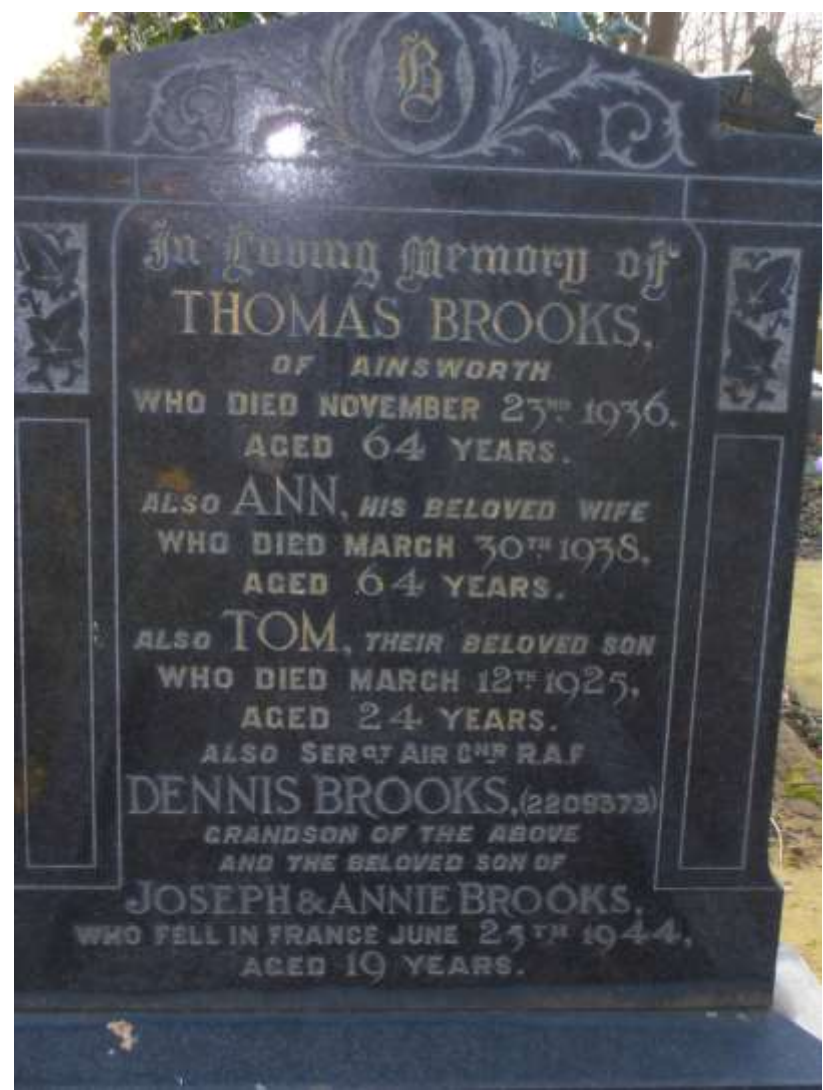
- The Second World War came to an end and the children of the Day School, were given a holiday on V.E. Day (8th May) and on V.J. Day (15th August)
- The Ainsworth Band was re-formed under Mr E. T. Tweedy. As only eight of the original band remained, an appeal was made to the local lads to join and several became bandsmen



The panto

Costumes for the chorus made from blackout curtains, with cotton wool balls sewn on!

Went “on tour” to entertain the troops down at Lowercroft



Two of the graves in Christ Church graveyard