

Embsay's Celebrations of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in June 1897
As recorded in the Journals of William Parker of The Heugh, Eastby (1813-1899)

June 17th 1897 In the evening and during the Night and on the 18th a great weight of Rain fell, the best rain we have had this Spring & Summer. 19th, 20th, 22nd & 23rd remarkably fine days for the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. The rest of month Thundery, showery weather – on the whole June has been the best growing month I remember.

The Queens Diamond Jubilee

June 22nd 1897 The celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee took place, Her Majesty having on this day completed her Sixty Years glorious reign; and I can truly say that the celebrations not only in London but in all parts Great Britain, and the Colonies have been on such a grand and Magnificent Scale, that in all probability there has never been seen in the World such a Spectacle as was witnessed in London, on this Auspicious occasion. Representatives from almost every Nation on the face of the earth being present; together with the Premiers from all our Self Governing Colonies; and all of these tokens of admiration and of love arising from the fact of her virtuous Palace life, and at the just and even balance she has kept towards all parties, and Classes & conditions of the People, and of every thing likely to add to the Welfare and real good and happiness of all her Subjects.

Another grand feature characteristic of our Gracious Queen is the readiness with which she has ever come forward to render assistance and relief to the Misfortunes and calamities of her Subjects; take her all in all, I think her the best Sovereign that has ever ruled over the destinies of the British Empire; and in all probability none now living will see her like again.

Skipton

In Skipton the Jubilee was kept up in right royal fashion, by all classes, all Trades were most admirably represented during Jubilee day; with very grand illuminations at night; and a Dinner for old People.

On the following day the 23rd All Societies and Schools, paraded the Town, and had Tea and Sports during the remainder of the day. Everything grand & beautiful.

June 22nd 1897

Embsay

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was carried out in this Township on a far grander and more liberal scale than, I venture to say, any event was ever celebrated in Embsay. By the Aid of Subscriptions the Parish Council provided a most substantial & sumptuous Knife and Fork Tea for every Inhabitant who had a mind to join in the festivities. Tea was partaken of in the British School, and to all old & infirm people who could not go to the Tea; very liberal supplies of Edibles, such as bread Beef, Ham & Lamb, were sent to their respective homes, a most bountiful supply had been provided.

And by the unbounded kindness and generosity of M^r & M^{rs} Dunlop, of Embsay Kirk, the school children had the grandest & most delightful Treat & entertainment of Tea & Buns and Jubilee Pots and various games all afternoon, and in evening splendid fireworks in the field before Hall.

The fire on Embsay Cragg burned very brightly till after 11 O'Clock. I may remark that before the Close of the festivities at Embsay Kirk a little after 10 O'Clock, a Vote of thanks was proposed to M^r & M^{rs} Dunlop & family by the Rev^d C. V. Brown seconded by the Rev^d John Howarth, and carried by a large and most grateful company, every body

feeling most grateful to M^r & M^{rs} Dunlop, not only for their unbounded liberality and kindness, but on account of their freely mixing with all classes of people & children in the most friendly and unostentatious manner with a kind word for every one, rich & poor alike; so that both young and old will bear in mind so long as they live, the great kindness of M^r Dunlop.

William Parker kept a separate account book which includes the following entries:

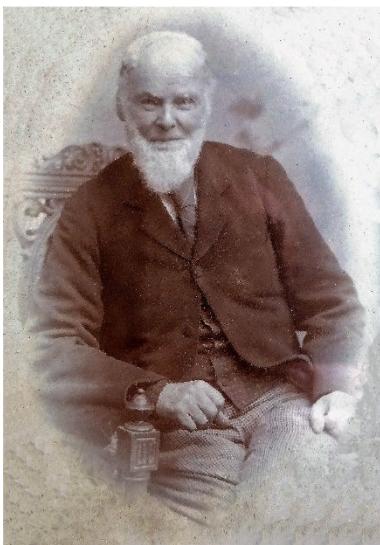
1897 June 18th Gave 10 shillings for the Knife & fork Diamond Jubilee Tea

1897 Aug 21st Paid John Davy 6 shillings for 5 Jubilee Plates & Jug

Notes:

1. Although her Diamond Jubilee was officially Sunday 20th June 1897 only a private service was held at Windsor Castle. Tuesday 22nd June was declared a public holiday.
2. William Parker was 84 years old in 1897 and died at The Heugh two years later.
3. The British School (now a house) was behind the New Jerusalem Church on Pasture Road (now the Children's Centre).
4. Charles Walter Dunlop was a Scottish wool merchant and J.P., formerly of Harden Grange, Bingley, who came to live at Emsay Kirk in 1896 with his wife Edith. Living with them at Emsay Kirk were their 6 grown-up children plus 5 servants, including a butler.
5. Rev^d Charles Vernon Brown was vicar of St Mary's Church, Emsay.
6. Rev^d John Howarth was Minister of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian) Church on Pasture Road.

David Turner of the Emsay-with-Eastby Research Group is currently transcribing the Journals of William Parker of The Heugh, Eastby and those of his father Thomas Parker which cover the period 1826 to 1900. They are in the possession of his g.g.granddaughter Elizabeth Mason of Hessele, East Yorkshire. (2019)



William Parker on his 83rd birthday in 1896



A Jubilee Commemorative Medal