

The Carrs of Tunstall House, Tatham



This article grew out of the photo above. It is in the collection of David Johnson of Bentham.

The caption reads “**Wedding of John Carr at Tunstall House about 1905**”. But the house isn't Tunstall House. So - assuming that there must be a grain of truth in the caption - all we knew was that the groom was John Carr, and that the photo has something to do with Tunstall House (formerly Lower Balshaw).

Fortunately, Kevin Dowbiggin (KD) was able to supply some answers, as well as a second photo:



"The wedding is of John Carr and Beatrice Wilcock (in 1914).

"The other man in the second photograph is Thomas Carr, groom's younger brother: Thomas's wife died within months of marriage, so my dad tells me, and did not remarry. [Edward Huddleston (EH) adds: I knew Thomas (Tommy) - who was at Thwaite Moss - as a 'character'.]

"The other women may be the groom's sisters [the bride had at least 3 sisters and 3 brothers - 1891 census]: Mary Jane (a half-sister) and Isabel; and possibly May Capstick, who was one of the witnesses.

"John Carr was the son of William and Alice Carr who lived at Thwaite Moss. Alice was originally Alice Dowbiggin (my great-grandad's sister) who was born in Durban, South Africa.

"John and Beatrice lived at Tunstall House. My dad can remember visiting Tunstall at summertime in the late 1930's.

"John and Beatrice had three children (Robert , William and Alice).

"Robert continued to farm at Tunstall with his wife Lettice (both buried at Lowgill) until the early 90's , unfortunately they had no children to continue farming.

"Robert's brother William died in his 20s; his sister Alice married Matt Hesleton and farmed Willow tree/Mewith." [EH adds: Matt was nephew of the diarist William Hesleton - and lived at Beck Grains]. Their son Brian is the only living descendant of John and Beatrice.

GRO marriage index:

Beatrice Wilcock married John Carr June quarter 1914 Settle district 9a.25

1914 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church of Norton in Ribblesdale in the County of York							
Observed on	Year	Name and Surname	Age	Qualification	Rank or Profession	Residence at date of Marriage	Religion
27th April 1914	1914	John Carr	32	Farmer	Farmer	William Carr	Farmer
		Beatrice Wilcock	33	Spinster	Spinster	North Cote Selside	Farmer
Married in the Parish Church, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by							
John Carr		Beatrice Wilcock		Thomas William Carr		Holtshale, Vicar	
May Capstick							

So the location of the wedding photos is probably North Cote farmhouse, Selside.



John ("Jack") Carr

1911 census:

Farmers' son, aged 28 (b. 1883, Bentham parish) working on father's farm – **Thwaite Moss, Tatham** (close to Tunstall House). Father William (b. 1852, Bentham, son of John and Isabella), mother Alice.

Beatrice ("Beatty") Wilcock

1911 census:

Farmers' dau. aged 30 (b. 1881, Horton parish) working as dairymaid on father's farm – **North Cote, Selside**, Ribblesdale. Father Robert, mother Rebecca.

Robert Wilcock ("Bob") Carr

GRO birth index:

Robert W Carr Birth registered June quarter 1915 Settle district 9a.12 Mother's maiden name Wilcock

Bob married twice. His first wife was **Elsie Greenwood**, who came from Queensbury (on the way to Halifax/ Huddersfield) - Bob met her when he went as a lad to work on a farm there (Info from EH). She died late 50s (info from Ann Alderson)

His second wife was his second cousin **Lettice Carr** (see below).

Bob and Lettice are buried in Tatham Fells churchyard. Lettice died in 1993, aged 80, and Bob in 1997, aged 82.

A former owner (from 1995) of Tunstall House, Nick Hewitt, wrote

"Until 1920, Lower Balshaw was a farm of thirty one acres extent and belonged to the vicar of Tunstall, Lancashire. Tunstall is a small village about 10 miles north of the farm near Kirkby Lonsdale. The house itself lies in the parish of Tatham Fells. I don't know how or when the farm came into the ownership of the vicar of Tunstall, but in 1920 it was sold by the vicar at the time, one Ronald Lees, to the tenant, John Clapham, of Bentham, North Yorkshire.

"Shortly afterwards, the farm was sold to the Carr family, also of Bentham, in whose ownership it remained until 1992, when its land was sold off to the three adjacent farms. This was when it ceased to be a working farm.

The family of Lettice Carr

John Stephen Carr

1901 census, Lane Foot Farm, Bentham

Farmer's son, single, age 20, b. 1881 Tatham (?? - Bentham in 1911 census above). Father David (b. 1849, Bentham, son of John and Isabella), mother Agnes.

Esther Makinson

1901 census, Beaumont Cote farm, Slyne-with-Hest:

Farmers' dau. Single, aged 20, living with parents.

[There was a **William Makinson** at Ridleys, Tatham in 1917 (Lythe Fell/Burn Moor stint occupier)]

GRO marriage index:

Esther Makinson married **John Stephen Carr** March quarter 1910 Lancaster district 8e.1281

1911 census: Crow Trees farm, Low Bentham.

John Stephen Carr age 30, b. 1881, Bentham

Esther Carr age 30, b. 1881, Bolton-le-Sands

Elsie Carr age 7 months, b. 1911, Bolton-le-Sands

[EH comments: Lettice had sister Elsie (mentioned above), brother Johnny (late husband of Isabel (Izzy) Carr of Lowther Hill, and sister Winnie who married ? Hodgson, and whose son John Hodgson – farms at Austwick – often stayed at Tunstall House when young.]

Lettice Carr

GRO birth index:

Lettice Carr Birth registered Dec quarter 1913 Settle district Mother's maiden name **Makinson**

[EH suggests Lettice may have lived at one of the Birks farms in Keasden before marriage]

Other Tatham Carrs

There was a Carr family at Ivah from around the time of the First World War. The last Carr to farm there was Robert Carr, who emigrated to Canada in c.1983. No apparent relationship with the above Carrs; grandfather of John and John Stephen Carr was John Carr b. 1809 Pilling, Lancs; ancestor of the Ivah Carrs was Thomas Carr b. 1821 Yorkshire.

Two Ivah Carrs served in WW1. John Carr was killed, his brother Lucas survived. See

<http://www.tathamhistory.org.uk/tatham-fells-great-war-scroll.php>