

Mr Anthony Leake, Hill Croft, Haverthwaite, N. Lancs, aged 79.

Mr Leake was born in 1883 at High-Newton (-in- Cartmel), and lived there till he was 22. His father was the licensee of a pub there, The House and Farrier, which has since been delicensed.

When Mr Leake was aged 4, in 1887, he went to Tommy Stainton's classes - this Tommy Stainton came from Backbarrow or Low Wood, and was about the same age as old Jos. Robinson. The classes were held at the pub. - they used to brew their own brewery in an adjoining building, and there was a suitable room over this brewery accessible by an outside staircase. He was King for Tommy Stainton at the finishing ball. Tommy Stainton couldn't play an instrument, so always had to hire a local fiddler to play for him.

The next two seasons, Old Jos. Robinson came to Newton to give classes, and Mr Leake and his sister - she was a year older than he - attended both sets. The classes were held in the same room over the brewery, and Mr Leake's father gave old Jos. the use of the room in return for free lessons for the children; in any case his father and old Jos. were great friends.

Old Jos's classes were once a week for a month or six weeks, and then were twice a week for the rest of the quarter. Then he would advertise the Juvenile Ball - it ended about 10 p.m. and there was a "singing hop" to follow until about 3 or 4 a.m. The audience always insisted that old Jos. should do a step-dance for them between the Juvenile Ball and the ensuing dance - "they cried the place down for him". On both these occasions, Mr Leake was King of the Ball & his sister partnered him as Queen.

The "programmes" for which we have searched were really advertisements for the ball, and were handed out in the village about a fortnight before the date [they were probably given to the children to take home]. At the actual ball, old Jos announced each item

separately, so that they didn't need programmes.

The dances which Mr Leak learnt from old Jos and Tommy Stanton (apparently the same from both, were

Quadrilles (First Set of Quadrilles, four figures, known as "Sets").

Lancers (5 figures)

Hop Scotch (?)

Cottagers,

Waltz,

Nigger Dance

Tambourine Dance (both boys and girls did this)

Not Waltz Cotillon, Circassian O, La Varsoviana, Polka Mazowka, Jockey Dance, or Sward Dance.

After old Jos gave up his classes, his son Alf Robinson had classes at Newton, but he got tight on the occasion of his Juvenile Ball, and that was the end of him as a local teacher

Mr Leak gave me an interesting account of the local events. The big week was Whit week, beginning with Ulverston parade on Whit Saturday (a trade parade, with horses and waggons, morris dancers, some boys, some girls, and bands interspersed between every 3 or 4 waggons), Cartmel Races on Whit Monday, Trotting Races at Cartmel on the Wednesday, and the hiring fair at Ulverston on the Thursday (a proper fair, with sixpenny hops over the poles(?)).

Old Jos. ran a carriage business from Lakeside - he lived in ^(one of) the houses with dormer windows at Lakeside - and ran phaetons and 20 seater-four-horse charabancs. For Cartmel Races he would meet the trains at Cark and take people to the races in his charabanc.

Stanton Robinson died of tetanus. Apparently at that time ginger beer bottles had a stopper consisting of a glass marble in a rubber ring, and to open the bottle one pushed the marble through the rubber and down to an enlargement in the neck of the bottle. Doing this one day - as landlord of Lakeside, - the bottle broke, and he cut his thumb, and that was that.