

I was born in the Silverhill pit cottages in 1948 and we moved down to Fackley Road in 1951. I think the house was called "Glenisla" then. There were six of us in the house, my parents George and Margaret Freeman, my mother's parents Arthur and Ethel Davenport (nee Froggatt) and my mother's unmarried brother Les Davenport. The house at that time had one of the rooms at the front converted in to a shop which my mother ran with her mother. I remember my mother (born 1920) saying she worked in Bowne's wool shop after leaving school and in fact she did shop work all her life except for her time in the WAAF in the war. I moved to Carlisle with my parents in 1959 due to my Dad's work.

Both my Grandad and Uncle worked at Silver Hill pit. My Grandad as a fitter and I think my Uncle was in one of the offices. He had worked down the pit but had had a serious accident and had to have a leg amputated. I don't know when this was but I only ever knew him with one leg. He died when he was only 51 I think some time in the early 1970's. He got married sometime in the 1960's I think his wife was called Wendy but I know nothing more of her family.

My infant school was in the Manor Room and then we moved on to the primary school which is now two semi-detached houses. The school had outside toilets with no roof on.

I'm sure Miss Tucker was Head Mistress and Mrs. Herring taught me. I enclose a copy of a class photograph which must have been from about 1954 and I think that Mrs Herring is the teacher in it. I am the middle one of the five on the back row.

I can remember the names of very few of the others in the class. I think the second from the left in the middle row is Richard Porter (guessing at Richard but pretty sure his surname is Porter). The family had a farm near the school. The third from the right in the middle row is Eric Thorpe and the far right middle row is Barry King who lived next door but one to where we lived on Fackley Road. I think the girl fourth from the right, middle row was called White but I can't recall her first name and not even 100% sure of her surname. There is a Barry Smith there somewhere but I don't know which one.

We used to go on school trips to the seaside each summer, Southport, Blackpool or Skegness. We were actually able to go by train from a station near Fackley Road in those days. The train was specially chartered, not a regular route.

I remember when they closed the school in Teversal. Four of us actually moved to Healdswood School at Stanton Hill the year before Teversal closed as our parents anticipated it would be closing imminently.

The much older photograph is of a Sunday school group of girls including my maternal Grandmother from about 1905 (a guess based on another guess that my Grandma was born about 1890). My Grandma is the second from the left back row. My mother had the photograph professionally restored but the restored version is taped up in a frame and too large to scan so this is the original with all its imperfections. As I said I was given to understand it was taken in front of Teversal Manor.

After my mother died in 2008 I went through her things I found a book "Our World of Yesterday" produced by the Teversal Living Memory Group. It had been sent to her by her brother in law (my Dad's brother) Fred Freeman, who was one of the contributors, in 1998 with a note from Mrs Sapey mentioning that she now lived in our old house. I sent her some old photographs of the house when we lived there.

I hope the attached photographs are of interest to your group and if I come across any more that I think are relevant I will be in touch again.

John Freeman