

# Flockton Brass Band – an augmentation of its centenary story

Gavin Holman, 21 January 2021

In 1938, the Flockton United Brass Band published a souvenir booklet which outlined highlights of the band's history, as a celebration in its centenary year. The text of this publication is given below, and I have taken the opportunity to add additional material about the band's known activities as an appendix following the booklet's information.

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## Preface

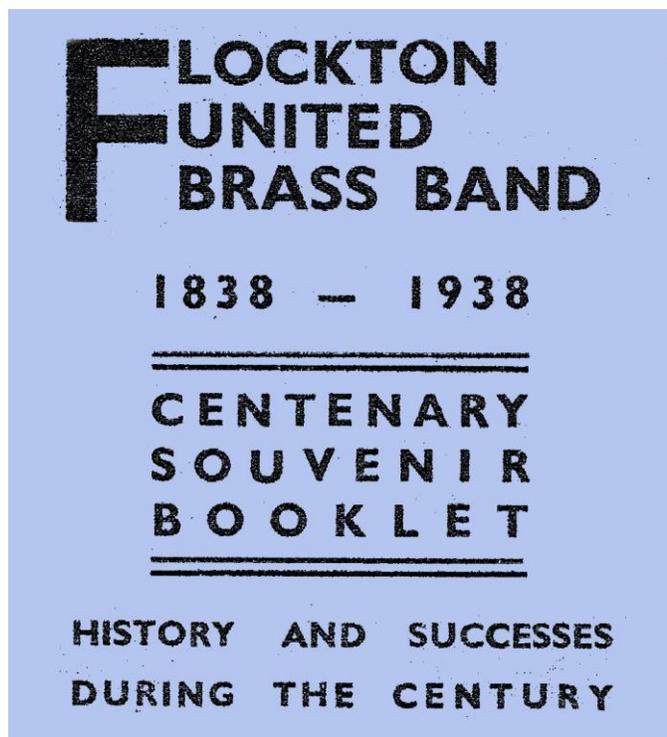
*When you come to think of it, for 100 years in our humble village the sounds of music from brass instruments has been heard. The year in which Queen Victoria was crowned.*

*Here out in the wilds where communication with surrounding districts took days, perhaps months, etc., to get in touch with, perhaps the sounds from the instruments would startle the horses drawing the coaches then. No Telephone. Wireless, even Newspapers were scarce; the mad rush of mechanical modernism had not been born. It was then the Birth of the Musical Society took place. Men sought their recreation in the form of Music. We must also remember, all rehearsals at nights, would be done by candlelight, and Bandsmen tramped miles over the rough and stormy roads.*

*In this little Souvenir Book, I have given records of our Band which have taken hours of time of our members to make a Centenary.*

*Although it might be invidious for many reasons to mention individual names, we do so in all good faith, many more could, of course, be added if we had only the space.*

*We have learnt a few lessons by our experience, and I hope and believe we are now on the road to establishing records which have never before been equaled by any village band.*



*With all the various experiments we have tried before, and in our time to run a decent Band, we have never met with the one we undertook towards the end of 1934 - "Contesting."*

*The success which attended our efforts, confirmed us in our belief afterwards, that Flockton people would support a Band worthy to produce Music of the highest standard.*

*Now may we, in conclusion extend to you a very hearty welcome to our Centenary Celebrations starting June 27th to July 2nd inclusive and also sincerely thank You for your most support to our Fund during our successful run. You will feel sure these have been appreciated very much indeed and we trust you will continue with the same contribution.*

*Again we Thank You.  
On behalf of the Committee,  
CHARLIE MARSDEN.*

## **Flockton United Band – 1838-1938**

The village of Flockton is proud of its Band, with its long and interesting record; ups and downs have of course been experienced, but never once has it been disbanded.

It was in the year 1838, that the Band was formed as a Brass and Reed Band under the title of "Flockton United."

The Musical Society's Rules were printed by T. Kemp, New Street, Huddersfield and dated the 15th day of November, 1838, are still in good condition and have been well preserved.

Some extracts from these are:

"Mr. John Kaye was elected Secretary."

Rule 10 says: "At 15 minutes before the time of assembling 'the bugle will sound,' any Member late for assembly must pay a fine of 1d per minute."

Rule 17 says: "That the Secretary in all cases shall have two votes."

Reeds were discarded about 1878, and it became purely a brass combination.

Among the Band's early conductors have been: Messrs. J. Wood, G.H. Sowerby, F. Lockwood, Harry Marsden, Archie Brook, William Pickard, George Thorpe, J. Brook, and J.R. Earnshaw.

Mr. George Thorpe, the father of the present Conductor, had charge of the Band, for many years, in addition to other professional duties. Some of his appointments were with Hebden Bridge Band in 1871, Dewsbury Old in 1875.



The return of Mr. Thorpe from one engagement, is recorded in Minutes at a General Meeting held in 1875, says:

That on the proposition of Walter Earnshaw, and seconded by Allen Garner, "That Mr. Thorpe be invited to become again Conductor of the Flockton Band," and went on to 1895 when he removed to Crigglestone; on being approached on March 2nd, 1896. he continued as Conductor. Many sons of Mr. Thorpe became well-known musicians and also were specially proficient with their instrument. A brilliant career was cut short, when Harry Thorpe, who was then playing with Batley Old Band, was killed in the mine in 1895. He was given a Memorial Burial at Flockton, at which a large number of Bands were represented.

Ernest Thorpe, the Band's present Conductor started in 1891, had many appointments with local Bands before going to Harton Colliery, where he was Conductor for 10 years and has given professional tuition to many well-known North Country Bands including Wallsend Shipyard, Newcastle Tramways, Usworth Colliery, Sherburn Hill. Shiney Row, Felling, Hepworth Colliery, Cowpen Colliery, Cowpen Colliery (Blythe) and many others, and has at present under him the Yorkshire (W.D.) Transport Band making great progress.

Noel Thorpe, another son, of Mr Thorpe, has become famed throughout England as a great Teacher; is Professional to Frickley, Slaithwaite, Denby Dale, Rowntree's, The Famous Blackhall Colliery and many others.



*Mr. Ernest Thorpe*

It was said that the Flockton United Band was the first to play "Onward Christian Soldiers" as a processional march. This was in 1866, the Bandmaster was asked to write the parts out for the Wind Instruments and this was played en-route at the School-treat on engagement at St. Peter's, Horbury Bridge Church at Whitsuntide in that year. The procession started from Horbury Bridge, up Quarry Hill and along the Ossett-Wakefield Road to St. Peter's Church, where the author of "Onward Christian Soldiers," the Late Rev. S. Baring-Gould, M.A., J.P., was then Curate at the Church, Horbury Bridge, near Wakefield.

Before 1878, Brass and Reeds Contests were rare occurrences and particularly in so far as an isolated district as ours was, in those days. However, the Band entered a few such: Loftus in Cleveland, under Archie Brook as Conductor. Testpiece "Halleluiahs Chorus," then again at Lancaster, Bradford, Crigglestone. Conducted by Mr. George Thorpe, at the later Contest, was awarded 2nd Prize. The Test-piece on this occasion being "Maritana" and about 1897, they entered and played at Ravensthorpe: Test-piece here was the waltz "Rose Queen." Mr. Angus Holden was Conductor.

It was then realized that the financial situation of the Band to be kept going must be improved. To this end the Committee persuaded the Railway Company to run Day Excursions to the seaside. These became very popular and were continued until 1913. The arrangements were made at a Meeting, on June 10<sup>th</sup> 1914, on the proposition of J.R. Earnshaw and seconded by Fred Leather: "That the 1914 Trip be to Bridlington and Scarborough." The War in that year interfered with the arrangements. It was not uncommon for 700 trippers surrounding districts to be met by the Band playing "Hail Smiling Morn" en-route as early as 2-30 a.m. The train being due to leave Horbury Bridge Station at 5 a.m. and arriving back the following morning at 4-30 a.m., then again came the 4 miles tramp home.

On the Friday following of Whit-week, 1876. the Band recorded its first engagement to lead the procession of Waterhead Congregational Church, Oldham. This engagement was unbroken until after 1915, when the war again put a stop to this splendid record. After 21 years, the Church people presented the Band with an Illuminated address, In return the Band, presented the Church with a Tea-Urn. The engagement was carried on for 39 years 1915, renewed again in 1919 to 1921. The late Walter Earnshaw ("Owd Walt") was presented with a suitably inscribed Medal, on his 37th visit. The discontinuance of this annual visit was deeply regretted by both Church people and Bandsmen. In early years a journey was made the night previous, so that many lasting friendships were made, and exceedingly kind hospitality experienced. The Band has only this year had the privilege to book the engagement again.



*Waterhead Band*

Dewsbury – St John’s Church. Here again sincere friendship has recorded a 29 years' continuous engagement, the Band's Whit-Tuesday visit here, is always looked forward to. After 25 years the Band made the Church a present of a Tea-Urn to commemorate the occasion.

### **Early Personalities**

1. Late Walter Earnshaw. Joined the Band on April 16<sup>th</sup> 1874. He won Oldest Player's Medal in 1908, at the Contest held in connection with the opening of Lofthouse Park, Wakefield.
2. Ben Langley. The late Secretary, Ben Langley, began his career as a bandsman on June 26<sup>th</sup> 1881. In 1931, he was presented with an easy chair in recognition of 50 years' service as a playing member, in addition to a long term of office as Secretary, a position he only relinquished in 1929.
3. The Late Sydney Marsden. As a young man, he was a player of considerable ability, was a frequent visitor as a Competitor to Slow Melody and Duet Contests where he was awarded many prizes. Joined the Band as a playing member on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1882, he declined many offers to forsake his native band. A great worker was lost to the Band when he met with his accident in the pit, which proved fatal on February 10<sup>th</sup> 1937.
4. J.R. Earnshaw. It was in 1887, that J.R. Earnshaw stepped into the Bandroom as a boy, and was so determined to have an instrument, that the Secretary found him an old one to take home, but contrary to expectations, the kid turned up to subsequent rehearsals later. The considerable perseverance and musical ability of the young bandsman. arc reflected in the fact that he was made Conductor

towards the latter part of 1896. Some few years later, he was presented with a Silver and Gold Plated Cornet, by a circle of admirers in the village.

5. Ben Mallinson. Joined the Band 1905. At the Lofthouse Park Contest in 1908, he won Youngest Player's Medal. Here the Band won also 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Department and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in order of Merit in March Contest. Adjudicator, Mr. John Leader.
6. Joe Walker. The late Joseph Walker joined the Band on May 17<sup>th</sup> 1887. Here again we had a player of considerable ability and a good bandsman. He was the best euphonium player, in our opinion, the band has every possessed. Fulfilled appointments with the Tower Band at Blackpool. Although not a playing member at the time of his death, it was received with sincere regret.
7. John William Roberts. Johnny Roberts. as he was known, , joined the band in 1865, as a Tenor Horn player and left for Almondbury on April 7<sup>th</sup> 1881. Here he took to playing the French Horn in Orchestra. He did so well on this instrument that he was booked to play in various Principal and Municipal Orchestras at Manchester, Southport, and many other seaside resorts until nearly the time of his death at 84 years.
8. Mr. George Sheard. Perhaps our old friends will recollect, at Crigglestone Contest, some 43 years ago, "Weber" was test piece. Mr George Sheard brought J.W. Mills by pony and trap. to play solo cornet for Grange Moor and Flockton at the same contest. If the N.B.B. had been formed then "George" would have been in as a party to the "Borrowed Player." The following year at the Duet Contest, J.W. Wills (Cornet) and Frank Woodhouse, won the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize. Mr J. Wood (Choirmaster and Organist) was the adjudicator.
9. Marshall Beaumont. Started his career as a bandsman in 1888, he made rapid progress before finally settling down on the Sop., but here again the excellent coaching he was receiving, made its presence felt, soon afterwards he saw considerable service with the Tower Band at Blackpool. Later he received an appointment with the Police Force Band at Kings Lynn, Norfolk, until his time of service expired, coming back later to this district and now is one of our Vice-Presidents.

It may prove interesting to state a few who have left the district to take up appointments elsewhere.

Messrs. Thomas Leather, J. Harrison, M. Booth (Army Bands); Samuel Pickard (Thornhill and Ravensthorpe), left Flockton Band in 1879; Mr. Wilkinson, 1916 to 1918, left for Southport Municipal and later to the Air Force Band as first soloist to 1922; Charlie and Harold Ripley (West Hartlepool Operatic); Henry Marsden (Netherton Band); J. Lister and W. Fitton (Thornhill Prize); George Beaumont (Clayton West and Denby Dale).

### **Normanton Contest 1909**

This Contest brought together an exceedingly grand total of entries (26), Flockton Band being awarded the fifth prize of 10/-.

### **Band Sunday**

For a great many years, Mass Concerts were held on the first Sunday in May, at Spa Well, in Flockton, this we think, is the origin of Band Sunday.

We are told the Beaumonts, Marsdens, Mountains, were the pioneers of the band. This may be the case for their names certainly appear in the band's early history, Later came the Pickards, Kayes, Taylors, Walshaws, Earnshaws, Walkers, Lumbs, F. Naylor (Euph.) and Redswicks.

Mr. E. Cardwell has been the President since 1930 and has proved a most popular and energetic official. The same can be said of the Vice-Chairmen, Mr J.W. Moulson and Mr. H. Jarvis.

### **Ladies' Committee**



We must not leave these notes without saying a few nice words about our "Big Noise," the Ladies' Committee, who have been tireless in their efforts to raise money for the Band Fund. Since the formation in 1932, it has handed over to us nearly £200, part of which has helped to provide the bandsmen with new uniforms. The enthusiasm of the Ladies is a big asset and in looking to the future progress the Ladies will make their presence felt in many ways. To the ladies we say "Thank you."

## **Capt. Stansfield's Drum**

Many, no doubt, will remember the Drum Capt. Stansfield so kindly bought for the band when he lived up at the Manor. The drum has the Stansfield arms painted on; the Lion, with their motto, "nosce teipsum." This means in plain English, "Know theyself." This drum was burst coming up Doctor Lane from the "Farmer's Boy," one evening by J.F. Marsden. The band was playing a march with two drums, H. Redgwick being the other drummer.

## **Officials, 1938**

*President:* E. Cardwell

*Vice-Chairman:* H.P. Walker

*Vice-Presidents:*

Dr. C. Smith, Dr. A. Tait, Denby Grange Collieries, Messrs. Harold Jarvis, Arthur Fieldhouse, Cecil Heywood, J.B. Glover, Charlie Clarke, G.H. Beatson, Dennis Waring, Mrs William Blackburn, Flockton Green W.M. Club, Middletown W.M. Club, George Booth, Fred Wood, William Tindall, Miss Annie Marsden, J.W. Moulson, Arthur Sheard, Wilfred Lockwood, Harold Lumb, Walter Beaumont (junr.), N.H. Atkins, Thomas Tranter, Wilfred Moulson, George Sheard, Thomas Redgwick, Willie Elliffe, Harry Bretton, Walter Schofield.

*Town Trustees:* Messrs. Harold Lumb, G. H. Beatson, J. Naylor.

*Band Trustees:* Messrs. Joe Beaumont, Herman Lumb, Walter Marsden.

*Committee (Town):* Messrs. Charles Mountain, Joe Townend, A.J. Townend, John Oates, Fred Leather, Joseph Mountain, Willie Leather, Walter Beaumont (junior), William Tindall, Arthur Atkins.

*Committee (Band):* Messrs. Harold Ripley, A.S. Earnshaw, William Smith, S. Hunter, J.W. Mountain, William Marsden, H. Firth, Tennyson Crowther, Willie Smith, Walter Smith.

*Secretary:* Charlie Marsden

*Finance Secretary:* Joe Beaumont

*Deputy Bandmaster:* Charlie Westerby

*Librarian:* William Smith

*Auditors:* J.W. Moulson, E. Cardwell



*Flockton United Brass Band, 1935*

### List of Successes

Date	Contest	Awards	Adjudicator	Test Piece	Conductor
1934	Crofton	No Prize	Wilfred Dawson		Noel Thorpe
1934	Emley (Hymn tune)	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	N.A. Atkins	"Lloyd"	Noel Thorpe
1935	Guisseley	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize and 1 Special	J.C. Dyson		Noel Thorpe
1935	Bradford	No Prize	L. Abrahams		J.R. Earnshaw

*The conductor in all subsequent contests was Ernest Thorpe.*

1935	Crofton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	J.Brier	"Days of Old"
1935	Oldham	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize – Birchenough Trophy	D. Aspinall	"Days of Old"

The Judge on giving his decision said, "he had heard 'Days of Old' played scores of times, but never heard it played to such perfection as on this occasion by the winning Band." Congratulations were bestowed on the Flockton Band from all sides, and there was great jubilation when our Secretary was called to the Band Stand to receive the Cup (the first) from the Cotton Queen of Lancashire, (Miss Edna Taylor), later the same year, was made Cotton Queen of Great Britain. The cheque was received from the Lady Mayoress of Oldham. The Band Secretary responded with short speech. Although the Oldham Infirmary Cup was the first to arrive in Flockton by the Band, it has proved the forerunner of many others. Mr. E. Thorpe was the Conductor and has been in charge of the Band from this time.

1935	Salford	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize – McDougall Shield	C. Ward	"Days of Old"
1935	Salford (march)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize, Euphonium and Trombone medals	C. Ward	"Knight Templar"

“Well Wisher” writing in the Brass Band News said, “Flockton Band’ win was a popular decision, because they gave a very good fine rendering. I must say, they have a future before them if they stick together.”

1935	Huddersfield	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and Cup	C.A. Sherriff	“Mignonette”
1935	Sheffield Festival	4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	H.C. Hind and D. Wright	“L’Arlesienne”
1935	Guiseley	1 <sup>st</sup> Cup and Special	Wilfred Dawson	“Days of Old”
1935	Guiseley	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Wilfred Dawson	“Knight Templar”
1935	Saltaire (1 <sup>st</sup> Section)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize and Cup	Fred Mortimer	“Faust (Berlioz)”
1935	Saltaire	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and Special	Fred Mortimer	“Knight Templar”
1935	Uppermill (Whit Friday)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	J. Brier	“Knight Templar”
1935	Oldham Lees	4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	C. Anderson	“Knight Templar”
1935	Belle Vue	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize and Special	D. Aspinall and Parker	“Die Feen”
1935	Holmfirth	4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Fred Mortimer	“I due Foscari”
1935	Belle Vue	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize and Special	C. Ward	“Ernani”
1935	Long Eaton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and Cup	C. Moore	“Recollections of Bellini”
1935	Long Eaton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize (hymn)	C. Moore	Burngreave
1935	Guiseley	4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	C. Jones	“Lorenzo”
1935	Guiseley	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and Cup	C. Jones	“Knight Templar”

Extracts from C. Jones remarks in selection, “A really good, smart performance. Bravo!”

1936	Huddersfield	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize and Shield	Fred Mortimer	“I due Foscari”
1936	Wakefield Hospital	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize and Cup	Harold Kemp	“The Talisman”
1936	Wakefield Hospital (march)	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Harold Kemp	“The Elephant”

#### *Membership of the Band to Wakefield Contest, 1936.*

William Marsden, Sop.; Charlie Westerby, Solo Cornet; George Smith, Solo Cornet; Ronnie Lockwood, Solo Cornet; John W. Mountain, Solo Cornet; Donald Fitton, Flugel Horn; Walter Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cornet; Laurie Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cornet, Reggie Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cornet; Halby Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cornet; Leonard Wood, Solo Horn; George Wiper, 1<sup>st</sup> Horn; Sydney Hunter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Horn; Willie Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baritone; Tennyson Crowther, Solo Baritone; Charlie Marsden (Sec.), Solo Euphonium; Herman Lumb, Solo Trombone; Joe Beaumont, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trombone; Willie Westerby, Bass Trombone; H. Ripley, Eb Bass; Willie Beaumont, Eb Bass; Walter Marsden, BBb Bass, Albert S. Earnshaw, BBb Bass; William Smith, Librarian; Thomas Redgwick, Drummer; Ernest Thorpe, Conductor.

1937	Ossett	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize and Cup	J.A Greenwood and W. Wood	"Crusaders"
1937	Ossett	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and Special	J.A Greenwood and W. Wood	"Knight Templar"
1937	Bradford Federation	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and Selection Cup	H. Heyes	"Coriolanus"
1937	Bradford Federation	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	H. Heyes	"Knight Templar"
1937	Holmfirth	5 <sup>th</sup> Prize	H. Moss	"Il Pirato"
1937	Belle Vue (May)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize and Special	J. Brier and H. Mortimer	"Northern Rhapsody"
1937	Belle Vue (July)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize and Special	G.H. Mercer	"Lucia di Lammermoor"
1937	Rotherham	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and Trophy	Mr Hesp	"Days of Old"

A trophy was also won at the above contest which becomes the Band's own property.

1937	Uppermill (Whit Friday)	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize and Trophy	J. Molloy	"Knight Templar"
1937	Micklehurst (Whit Friday)	4 <sup>th</sup> Prize and Solo Cornet medal	C. Ward	"Knight Templar"

THE NATIONAL BAND FESTIVAL  
 Founded 1900.  
 News Chronicle Challenge Trophy  
 Presented by the "News Chronicle".



1937	Alexandra Palace	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and News Chronicle Trophy (value £50)		"Kenilworth"
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The Band competed in Section 3. Adjudicators were Messrs. T. Reynolds and A. Aspole, A.R.C.M. 25 Bands competed in our section, in all 7 sections, 202 Bands entered. Only 4 Yorkshire Bands were successful Nearly 100 supporters accompanied the Flockton Band to London.

1937	Huddersfield	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	H. Heyes	"Maritana"
1937	Yeadon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and Cup	H. Mortimer	"Maritana"
1937	Yeadon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize and Special	H. Mortimer	"Knight Templar"
1938	Cleckheaton (hymn)	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize and Special	J.C. Dyson	"Sunset"
1938	Yorkshire Federation (Bradford)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Selection, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March		
1938	Uppermill (Whit Friday)	3 <sup>rd</sup> place		"Knight Templar"
1938	Oldham Lees (Whit Friday)	3 <sup>rd</sup> place		"Knight Templar"

*Membership of the Band from 1936 to Cleckheaton, 1938.*

William Marsden, Sop.; Charlie Westerby, Solo Cornet; Harry Beech, Solo Cornet; Ronnie Lockwood, Solo Cornet; John W. Mountain, Solo Cornet; Donald Fitton, Flugel Horn; Walter Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cornet; Laurie Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cornet, Reggie Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cornet; Halby Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cornet; Leonard Wood, Solo Horn; George Wiper, 1<sup>st</sup> Horn; Sydney Hunter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Horn; Willie Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baritone; Tennyson Crowther, Solo Baritone; Harry Firth, Euphonium; Charlie Marsden (Sec.), Solo Euphonium; Herman Lumb, Solo Trombone; Joe Beaumont, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trombone; Willie Westerby, Bass Trombone; Harold Ripley, Eb Bass; Fred Firth, Eb Bass; Walter Marsden, BBb Bass, Albert Earnshaw, BBb Bass; William Smith, Librarian; A.J. Townend, Drummer; Ernest Thorpe, Conductor.

The above record is adequate testimony to the brilliant musical and teaching ability of our Conductor Mr. Ernest Thorpe. The Officials and Members of the Band realise the great debt they owe to him, and are optimistic regarding further honours coming their way under his guidance.

The Band's crowning honour in their Centenary Year was that of a broadcasting engagement on Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> last. Many letters and Donations being received, and congratulations from many well-known Brass Band Teachers and Adjudicators from Hampshire, Bridlington, Stockport, Kent, South Shields, Surrey, etc.



*Flockton United Brass Band, 1938*

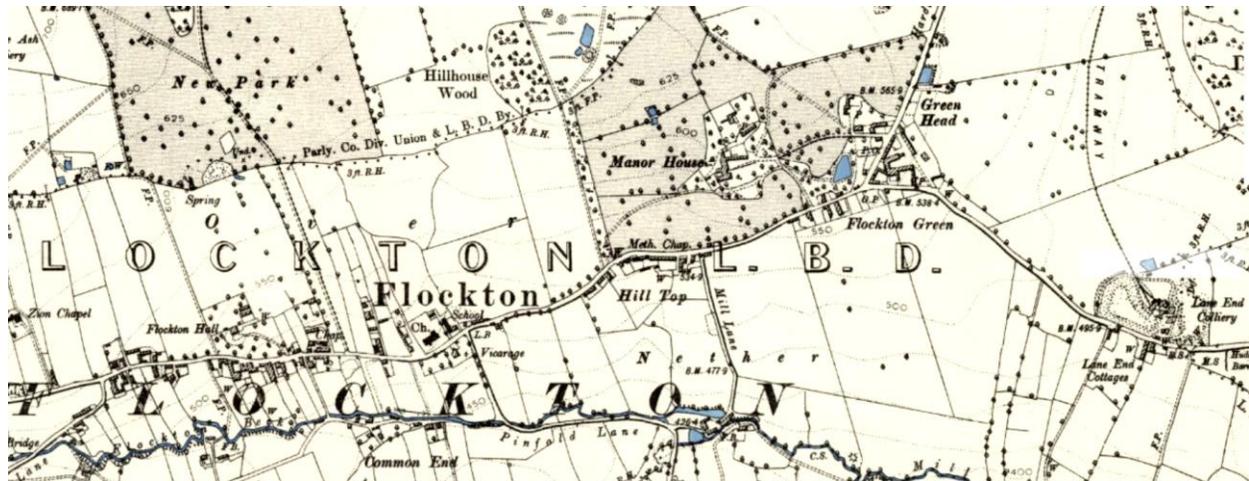
## Appendix – Flockton Brass Band – additional material

Flockton Brass Band was a typical Yorkshire mining village band. The local colliery employed many of the menfolk and, although the pits were shallow, unlike the deep pits of other regions, the work was still hard and dangerous. For more details of the colliery (just one of many in the district) see: J. Goodchild – “The Old Flockton Collieries, c.1772 to 1893” – *British Mining* – No. 19, NMRS, 1982, pp. 97-122

It was originally formed as a brass and reed band in 1838. Reeds were dropped around 1858 and the band became brass only. Conductor G. Webster in 1860. Bandmaster William Pickard, conductor George Thorpe in 1884. Also in 1884 Henry Marsden was described as a "veteran drummer" in the band, The band was active through to 1956.

The details of the band and its activities below are in addition to those documented in the centenary booklet above.

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- 30 August 1856 – the band played numerous waltzes, polkas, etc., during the day at the Silkstone Cottage Gardeners’ Society Exhibition, at the Silkstone National Schoolroom.
  - 17 August 1858 – the band provided music for the procession of the children from Denby Grange School in Flockton, when they were entertained to a tea by the school’s patron Lady Lister Kaye.
  - 10 July 1860 – the band competed in Enderby Jackson’s “Great National Contest” at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham. The qualifying rounds took place on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and the “Sydenham Amateur Contest” on the following day.
  - 20 August 1860 – the band competed in the contest at the Beechfield Grounds, Barnsley, playing two own-choice pieces – Cavatina, from “*I Capuletta*” by Bellini, and a selection from the opera “*Martha*” by Flotow, but it was unplaced. The band was led and conducted by Thomas Beaumont, and played number one in the draw.
  - 12 August 1861 – the band competed in the grand contest at the Arboretum in Derby. The band drew number 9 in the programme and played two test pieces – “*Lucrezia Borgia*” and “*Ernani*”. They were conducted by John Wood and were unplaced.
  - 26 May 1862 – the band competed at Scarborough, in the contest held at the Rock Gardens, playing number 8, but were unplaced.
  - 18 June 1864 – the band provided musical entertainment on the occasion of a friendly cricket match at Emley, between Emley and Denby Dale cricket clubs.
  - 10 June 1867 – the band provided musical entertainment for the villagers and children of St Nicholas Church, at their tea and games afternoon, at Cumberworth.
  - 22 July 1867 – the band competed in the contest at the Hull Rifle Barracks on Londesborough Street, Hull. They were not placed out of the eight bands which attended (out of the 15 that had entered).
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- 24 August 1867 – the band competed in the own-choice test piece contest at the Belle Isle Fields, Sandal Road, Wakefield. They were unplaced.
- 31 August 1867 – the band provided musical entertainment at a cricket match in Flockton between Sir John L.L. Kaye’s Blacksmiths and Wrights, and Captain Stansfield’s Ditto.
- 16 May 1868 – the band, together with the Shelley Brass Band, attended the Emley Feast, parading the village and playing lively tunes.
- 5 September 1868 – the band entered the contest at the Belle Isle Fields, Sandal Road, Wakefield. They were conducted by George Thorpe and played “*Lucrezia Borgia*” (Donizetti) and “*Somnambula*” (Bellini), with 17 players.
- 6 June 1870 – the band led the procession of about 200 members of the Church Sunday School of St Luke’s, Middlestown. Marching through the village to Thornhill they were joined by members of two other Sunday schools, forming a parade of nearly 700.
- 29 May 1871 – the band led the Whit procession of the Church scholars of Middlestown and Netherton, as they joined the Thornhill Band and Thornhill procession in that village.
- 13 July 1872 – the band competed in the contest at the Shelley Athletic Festival, where they obtained 4<sup>th</sup> prize (£1), with 17 players, conducted by Henry Marsden. They played number 2 in the competition, performing selections from “*Il Flauto Magico*” (Mozart) and “*Der Freischutz*” (Weber). There was some disturbance on the field when Kirkburton Victoria Band were refused admittance, and their supporters would not pay for admission to the sports field.
- 19 August 1872 – the Great Miners’ Demonstration in Leeds was attended by thousands of people and many brass bands, who led the various processions through the city. The bands were Flockton (who led the Sharlestone colliers), Kippax, Oulton, Rothwell, Doncaster, Aire and Calder, Skelmanthorpe, Wakefield Rifle Corps, Normanton, Dewsbury Old, Leeds Model, Rogers’ Leeds Model, and Hemsworth bands.

- 26 July 1873 - the Great Miners' Demonstration of the South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Miners' Association, in Barnsley was again attended by thousands of people and many brass bands, who led the various processions through the town. The bands were Flockton (who led the Mount Osborne miners' lodge), Wharnccliffe Silkstone, Wombwell, Ecclesfield Old, Ecclesfield New, Barnsley Rifles, Hoyland, Ardsley Providential, Dodworth, Silkstone, Barnsley Temperance, Dewsbury, Higham, Mapplewell, Doncaster Rifles, Kirkburton, Shepley, High Green, Thorncliffe Artillery, Scholes, Wentworth, Doncaster, Wath, Crane Moor, Morley, Brighouse, and Rothwell bands. Flockton and the Mount Osborne miners were billeted at the White Hart Inn in Barnsley. At the end of the proceedings the bands played dance music and selections from the great composers, each band playing 40 minutes on the various platforms (four throughout the town) – Flockton were on the same platform as Kirkburton, Thorncliffe Artillery, Crane Moor, High Green, Wombwell, and Barnsley Temperance.
- 7 March 1874 – a grand concert was given in the Flockton Church schoolroom in aid of the Flockton Brass Band.
- 24 June 1874 – the band competed at the Lofthouse in Cleveland contest, with 22 players, conducted by John Brook, took third prize, playing "*Reminiscences of Donizetti*" and "*Queen's Messenger*". Each band played two own-choice selections.
- 11 July 1874 – the band organised a Grand Day Excursion to Hull. The train left Mirfield at 5:30, Thornhill Lea 5:40, Horbury 5:50, Wakefield 6:00, and Sharlston 6:15, arriving at Hull 8:30 am. The return train would leave Hull at 6:00 pm. Return tickets cost 3s.
- 19 September 1874 – the band had entered the contest at Honley that day, but for some reason withdrew and did not compete.
- 21 November 1874 – the band gave a miscellaneous concert in the Church Schoolroom, Flockton. The opening piece was a selection from Mozart's operas, arranged by Mr Brooke, Dewsbury.
- 29 March 1876 – the band was engaged to head the procession around the village of Overton on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the new Primitive Methodist Chapel.
- 5 June 1876 – the Horbury Primitive Methodists paraded through the town on Whit Monday, headed by the Flockton Brass Band.
- 11 June 1876 – the band provided music at the gala and for dancing on the cricket field at Kirkburton, on the occasion of the "Burton Trinity".
- 22 November 1876 – the Pontefract Autumn Flower Show held a cornet solo competition as part of its proceedings. There were 24 entrants from bands in the West Riding, and George Thorpe, of Flockton Band, was not placed in the main contest (the prize for which was a cornet worth 10 guineas), but he did win a watch in a special Eb cornet contest.
- 4 August 1877 – the band competed in a contest at Cleckheaton, but were unplaced.

- 2 March 1878 – the band gave an entertainment tea in the Flockton National Schoolroom, with 120 persons attending. In addition to the band's selections, under the baton of George Thorpe, songs and glees were provided by Messrs. Thorpe, Roberts, Sowerby and Wilkinson. The financial statement for the year showed receipts of £60 10s., expenditure of £13 7s. 6d., balance of £47 3s.
- 2 June 1879 – St Luke's church procession at Thornhill was led by Flockton Brass Band.
- 3 June 1879 – the band led the St Peter's schools in their Whitsuntide procession around the village of Earlsheaton.
- 15 November 1879 - the band competed in a contest at the Co-operative Hall, Cleckheaton, winning 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.
- 4 September 1880 – the Flockton Brass Band took its annual trip to Scarborough.
- 2 December 1882 – at a duet competition at Longwood, two members of Flockton Band won first prize – William Pickard (cornet) and Friend Naylor (euphonium).
- 22 November 1884 – the band members and friends partook of an excellent supper at the Welcome Friend Inn. Various songs and glees were enjoyed after the meal, and the balance sheet for the present year was read, showing income of £35 18s. 10½d., an outgo of £31 16s. 8d., leaving a balance of £3 12s. 2½d. This did not include the sum of £45 received for engagements and divided among the bandsmen. A new uniform was obtained during the year, costing about £60, of which a debt of £27 was still owing.
- 2 May 1885 – Flockton was crowded with Liberals on the occasion of the opening of a new Liberal Club, and the members and friends of the Club were led in procession through the streets by the Flockton Brass Band.
- 13 June 1885 – the tea and gathering as a reception for the Liberal candidate, Mr. Benjamin Pickard, was a celebration in Flockton. A procession was formed, led by the band, and marched towards Middlestown, where they were joined by the Middlestown Brass Band and a large contingent of electors, at Caphouse.
- 29 August 1885 – the band gave two concerts in Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, at 3pm and 6pm.
- 13 September 1885 – the band took part in the procession of Friendly Societies, starting from the Corn Exchange in Wakefield. This was followed by a massed band open air sacred concert at Belle Vue, Wakefield.
- 12 September 1886 – the band took part in the Hospital Sunday procession of Friendly Societies, in Wakefield, in aid of the Clayton Hospital. This was followed by a massed band open air sacred concert at Belle Vue, Wakefield.
- 30 May 1887 – Horbury Wesleyan School scholars paraded round the village, led by Flockton Brass Band.
- 22 February 1888 – the Flockton Brass Band joined the Grange Moor Band in the funeral procession for James Sheard, a member of the latter band.
- 28 May 1888 – the band led the procession of the Rowley Hill Sunday School, at Lepton.
- 18 August 1888 – the band travelled on an excursion trip to Blackpool.
- 15 July 1889 – the band was engaged to lead the North Gawber and Woolley miners' lodges in the Yorkshire miners' association demonstration at Barnsley.

- 29 July 1889 – the band took part in the celebrations for the opening of a Liberal Club in Middlestown.
- 28 September 1889 – Flockton Brass Band, together with Emley Brass Band and Grange Moor Brass Band, paraded the district of Emley on the occasion of the Grand Miners' Demonstration.
- 2 June 1890 - the band led the procession of the Rowley Hill Sunday School.
- 2 August 1890 – two members of the band, Henry and Sydney Marsden (cornet and Eb tenor horn) competed in the duet competition at the Denby Dale Brass Band Sports, held at Wallroyd. They gained 3<sup>rd</sup> prize playing a selection from *Lucrezia Borgia*.
- 13 September 1890 – the Flockton Band visited Denby Grange, the residence of Mr Cecil Lister Kaye, playing a few selections and dance music, later going on to the hamlet of Grange Land and repeating the performance to the delight of the residents.
- 14 September 1890 – the band gave a sacred concert in a field close to Flockton Manor, the residence of Captain Stansfield, J.P. The villagers congregated to hear the band but were disappointed, as they were not allowed to enter the field. The performance was repeated the following week when the grounds were open to the public. As a result of these performances over £2 was raised in aid of the band's new instrument fund.
- 22 November 1890 – the Flockton Band joined the Netherton Band in a presentation and celebration for the bands. They met the Netherton Band at the top of Netherton and marched to the Star Inn, for a supper, presentation, band entertainment and dancing.
- 9 May 1891 – the band entered a contest at Shelley, promoted by the Shelley Brass Band. In the selection contest they played number 3, performing a selection from Weber's works, and were placed 6<sup>th</sup>, but they took 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the associated quickstep contest.
- 18 May 1891 – the band led the Whit Monday procession of the Milnsbridge Parish Church as they marched around the parish. Afterwards the band entertained the crowds at the subsequent tea and games.
- 1 August 1891 – the Flockton Band organised a duet contest in Flockton. There were eight couples competing, from Linthwaite, Thornhill, Denby Dale, Lindley, and Grange Moor. First prize went to Shaw Singleton (cornet) and J.W. Roberts (tenor horn) from Thornhill.
- 6 June 1892 - the band started the day with the Whit Monday procession St Andrews, Earlheaton, before moving on to lead the Milnsbridge Parish Church as they marched around their parish. The band then entertained the crowds in a field at Coseley for the congregational tea party and innocent outdoor games.
- 8 August 1892 – the band led the parade of the Zion Independent Sunday School through the village of Flockton.
- 1 July 1893 – the Flockton Brass Band led the various Bands of Hope (those of Flockton, Thornhill Edge, and Grange Moor) in their United Bands of Hope Demonstration procession at Flockton.
- 14 May 1894 - the band led the Whit Monday procession of the Milnsbridge Parish Church. The band played selections during the evening.

- 1 September 1894 – the quickstep march “*Flockton*” by George Thorpe, was available to buy, through T.A. Haigh’s Publishers.
- 3 August 1895 – the band competed in the own-choice test piece contest at Denby Dale. They were not placed.
- 7 June 1897 – the band led the St Luke’s Sunday School procession, in their new uniform, in Middlestown.
- 22 June 1897 – the Flockton Band and Linthwaite Band were engaged to provide marching music and general entertainment for the Milnsbridge Diamond Jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria.
- 8 January 1898 – the band members and friends held their annual supper at the Angel Inn, Flockton. Later in the evening, the band played for dancing. William Pickard (one of the founding members of the band) was present.
- 20 June 1898 – the band took part in the large miners’ demonstration at Sheffield, leading the East Gawber and North Gawber miners’ lodges.
- 29 April 1899 – the band competed in a contest at Ravensthorpe, playing the test piece “*Rose Queen*” in a very large field of 30 bands. They were unplaced.
- 20 May 1899 – the band entered a contest at Ardsley, playing the set test piece “*Donizetti*” (arr. Round) together with an own-choice selection. They were led by a professional conductor, Angus Holden, but were unplaced.
- 22 May 1899 - the band led the Whit Monday procession of the Milnsbridge Parish Church, however the route had to be shortened because of the rain.



*Flockton Brass Band leading the Flockton Sunday School parade, early 1900's*

- 13 April 1901 – the band entertained the crowds at the Rockwood Hunt Steeplechases between the meeting’s events.

- 16 June 1902 - the band took part in the Yorkshire miners' demonstration at Clifton Park, Rotherham, leading the North Gawber and Woolley miners' lodges.
- 9 August 1902 – the band entertained the crowds at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, as part of the celebrations for the coronation of King Edward VII.
- 5 June 1906 – the band was engaged to lead the Sunday School demonstration at Mapplewell and Staincross.
- 6 June 1908 – the band entered the contest at Lofthouse Park in Leeds, playing the test piece “*Rose Bloom*”. They were unplaced.
- 18 July 1908 – the band competed in a own-choice contest at Cawthorne, taking 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.
- 29 May 1909 – the band took part in the contest at Mopsey Garth, Normanton, playing the set test piece “*Old Favourites*” (arr. William Rimmer). They were conducted by J.R. Earnshaw and were placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 13 bands.
- 19 June 1909 – the band competed in a contest at Worsborough Dale, again playing “*Old Favourites*”. They were unplaced.
- 19 June 1911 – the band was engaged to lead the North Gawber miners' lodge in the great miners' demonstration at the Co-operative Society's field, Dodsworth Road, Barnsley.

There is a gap in the record of the band from 1912 to 1933 – all that is known is a single photograph, dated 1925.



*Flockton United Brass Band, 1925*

- 22 July 1933 – the band competed in a contest promoted by the Netherton Brass Band, at Netherton. They won 1<sup>st</sup> prize.

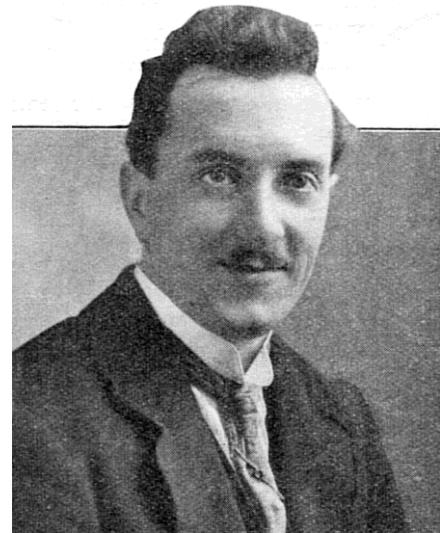
- 29 June 1935 – the Flockton Band, in association with the Cricket Club, organised a test piece band contest on the cricket field. The contest was won by Firbeck Colliery Band.
- 26 June 1937 – the Flockton Band, in association with the Cricket Club, organised a band contest on the cricket field, with the test piece being “*Il Pirata*” (Bellini). The contest was won by Denby Dale Band.
- 7 March 1938 – the band gave a concert for an hour on the radio (the Northern broadcast) from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, conducted by Ernest Thorpe, featuring Herman Lumb on solo trombone.
- 1 May 1938 – the Flockton Band, in association with the Cricket Club, organised a carnival and band contest on the cricket field. The test piece was “*Wayside Scenes*” and prizes offered to bands were £8, £4, £2. There was also a hymn tune contest with prizes of £1 and 10s.
- 21 May 1938 – the band competed in the Class A contest at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing the test piece “*The Royal Water Music*” (Handel). They were number 5 in the draw, of 17 bands, and took 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.



*Flockton United Brass Band, 1935, with the Ladies' Committee*

- 13 June 1938 – an article in the Bradford Observer reported: “The long record of Flockton United Band - Flockton lies between Wakefield and Huddersfield - which celebrates its centenary in a few weeks, as described in another column, recalls days when music was one of the chief recreations of country folk. In comparatively isolated villages such as Flockton, people had to find their own means of amusement, and the love of music, deeply felt in England from ancient times, finally found its most popular form of expression in the village band or musical society. Thomas Hardy describes a typical band of the sort, found in all parts of the country as well as Yorkshire, in "Under the Greenwood Tree." The members practised at one, another's homes and visited big farms, and, of course, played for the rollicking country dances that used to be held in barns and similar places. The all-metal band is a comparatively modern development. Originally the Flockton Band included stringed instruments. Like most old bands Flockton has its tradition of amusing incidents after the style of the story, told about another band, concerning a veteran player who died in harness, and whose instrument was found to be long rusted up. He had been playing "mute" for a good many years! Flockton has a tale of a visit paid by the band to Cleveland long years ago. Part of the journey was made in railway coaches drawn along the lines by horses. The day was hot, and the bandsmen insisted on halting at an inn not far from the line. It chanced that the landlord had never heard such a large band before. He was enchanted and plied the players with successive rounds of ale - and in those days ale was ale. The result was that in Cleveland every man Jack of the band had to recruit at least another from the crowd to hold him erect.”
- 30 August 1938 – the band entertained the visitors to the Bretton Feast.
- 3 September 1938 – the band took 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in Section A of an own-choice test piece contest organised by the Huddersfield Brass Band Association, at Huddersfield.
- 10 September 1938 – the band took part in Mr W.E. Butlin’s first annual brass band contest, at the Skegness Holiday Camp. They competed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, playing Donizetti’s “*La Regina di Golconda*”, but were unplaced.
- 24 September 1938 – the band competed at the National Finals in London, in the Grand Shield contest at the Alexandra Palace, playing the test piece “*Owain Glyndwr*” (Price). They were not placed.
- 29 October 1938 – the band entered the contest at Stalybridge Town Hall, playing the test piece “*Recollections of Balfe*”. In a field of 21 bands they were unplaced.
- 11 February 1939 – the band took 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the 1<sup>st</sup> Section West Riding contest at Dewsbury Town Hall.
- 15 April 1939 – the band competed at the Victoria Hall, Saltaire – Section 1 – but were unplaced in the test piece. They did, however, get 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the march contest.
- 6 May 1939 – the band competed in the Class A contest at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing the test piece “*Labour and Love*” (Percy Fletcher). They were number 13 in the draw, of 27 bands, and were unplaced. This was the last contest that the band was conducted by Ernest Thorpe.
- 31 August 1940 – a contest at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, was entered, but the band was not in the prizes.

- 30 August 1941 – the Section B contest at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, was won by the band, taking 1<sup>st</sup> prize, conducted by N. Atkins, playing the test piece “*Dawn of Spring*”. In the combined march contest (both Section A and B bands) Flockton took 1<sup>st</sup> prize also.
- 13 September 1941 – in a contest organised by Huddersfield Crysanthemum Society, at Huddersfield Town Hall, the band took 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, playing the test piece “*Dawn of Spring*”.
- 7 March 1942 – the band took 2<sup>nd</sup> place and a prize of £6 in a contest at Ossett, playing the test piece “*Emilia*” (Donizetti). Conducted by H.F. Atkins.
- 16 May 1942 – the band competed in the Class A contest at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing the test piece “*Ballet Music from William Tell*” (Rossini). They were number 8 in the draw, of 11 bands, and were unplaced. Conductor N. Atkins.
- 23 May 1942 – playing in an own-choice test piece contest at the Lane Head Recreation Ground, Brighouse, the band were first to compete, but were unplaced.
- 24 March 1943 – the band competed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Section West Riding contest at Eastbrook Hall, Bradford, playing number 1 in the draw with the test piece “*Oberon*” (Weber). They were unplaced.
- 25 August 1945 – Flockton competed in Section B of the Huddersfield & District Association contest at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, playing the test piece “*Wayside Scenes*” (Greenwood). They took 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, and also won the march contest.
- 2 March 1946 – the band competed in the own choice 3<sup>rd</sup> Section West Riding contest at Dewsbury Town Hall, winning 1<sup>st</sup> prize, conducted by N. Atkins.
- 6 April 1946 – the band competed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section Yorkshire Area contest at Central Hall, Bradford, with the test piece “*Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*” (Mozart, arr. Eric Ball). They took 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, with 179 points.
- 11 May 1946 - the band competed in the Class A contest at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing the test piece “*A Northern Rhapsody*” (Thomas Keighley). They were unplaced, and were conducted by Noel Thorpe.
- 1 August 1946 – the band engaged Mr. W. Dawson, late of Blackhall Colliery Band, to coach them for contests.
- 31 August 1946 - Flockton competed in Section A of the Huddersfield & District Association contest at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, playing the test piece “*Labour and Love*” (Fletcher). They won 1<sup>st</sup> prize.



Noel Thorpe, 1935

- 9 June 1947 – an article in the Bradford Observer reported: “Exactly how long the Flockton Brass Band has been fulfilling engagements at Whitsuntide school feasts in Lancashire towns no one seems really sure, but it must be over 40 years. The president – Mr H.P. Walker, the village cobbler – has attended the Waterhead Congregational Church, Oldham Lees, school feast on Whit Friday as a playing member of the band for 28 years, and the late Mr. Walter Earnshaw was presented with a gold medal ‘as big as a five-shilling piece’ by admiring members of Oldham Lees Church after he had played at 38 successive school feasts. After the war-time break, the old custom was revived in 1945, when the band visited Uppermill. Last year’s Whitsuntide engagement was at Bury. The five-day shift – six-day pay system in the mines – most of the Flockton bandsmen are miners – has had its effect on tradition, however. This year the band had no engagement in Lancashire – none of the bandsmen were inclined to miss two days’ wages for the provision of one day’s music. The band has just lost by retirement 64-year old Herman Lumb, of Co-operative Buildings, Flockton, for 50 years a playing member.”
- 12 June 1947 – in a letter in the Bradford Observer, from Mrs F. Hargreaves of 13 Hampden Street, Little Horton, Bradford, she wrote “You may be interested to know that my father (Mr. G.H. Sowerby, now living with me), an old Flockton bandsman, well remembers visiting Lancashire with the band at Whitsuntide. The first time he went with them, as drummer, he was only 18 years of age, and as he is now 84, that is 66 years ago, and the band had been going many years prior to this. So it must be at least 70 years, and not 40, that the band has carried on this custom.”
- 30 August 1947 – the band won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Section A of the Huddersfield & District Association contest at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, playing the test piece “*Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*” (Mozart, arr. Eric Ball).
- 21 September 1947 – the band competed at Blackpool, on the South Pier, with the test piece “*Recollections of Mendelssohn*” – taking 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.
- 4 October 1947 – the Yorkshire Evening Post reported the death of Herman Lumb (65), associated with Flockton Brass Band as player and official for over 50 years, at his home, Hill Top, Flockton.
- 15 November 1947 – at a contest in the Drill Hall, Powell Street, Wigan, the band competed against 17 other bands with the test piece “*Recollections of Mendelssohn*”. They were unplaced. Conductor Noel Thorpe.
- 7 December 1947 – a slow melody contest took place in the Slaithwaite Band Pavilion. H. Field (BBb bass), of Flockton Band, obtained a special prize.
- 17 April 1948 - a slow melody contest took place in the Scape Goat Hill Bandroom. Denis Wilby (cornet) of Flockton Band, took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the under-16’s, and 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the open section.
- 26 June 1948 – the Flockton Band, in association with the Cricket Club, organised a test piece band contest on the cricket field. The contest was won by Skelmanthorpe Band.
- 23 August 1948 – the band took part in a contest at the Drill Hall, Rochdale, with the test piece “*Così fan Tutte*” (Mozart), against 20 other bands. They were unplaced.

- 6 November 1948 - at a contest in the Drill Hall, Powell Street, Wigan, the band played number 3 and competed against 18 other bands with the test piece *Così fan Tutte* (Mozart), They were unplaced. Conductor Noel Thorpe.
- 1 May 1949 – a report in *Brass Band News*, May 1949, states: "Mr. H. H. Atkins is again taking over the conductorship of Flockton United, with Mr. C. Westerby (late B. & R.) solo cornet and deputy conductor. They have ten youngsters under 12 years of age who will benefit by Mr. Westerby's teaching, including G. H. Ripley (8), who played second horn for the band at Rochdale Contest (the youngest player there); he is moving up to first horn, thus bringing in Tennyson Crowther (10) on to second horn. Joe Beaumont, second trombone, commences on his 52nd year as a playing member. The Ladies' Committee are doing fine work to help; they have just paid for another cornet."
- 29 May 1950 – the band led the Whitsuntide procession through the village of Earlsheaton.
- 24 June 1950 – the Flockton Band, in association with the Cricket Club, organised a band contest on the cricket field, with the test piece "*Moses in Egypt*" (Greenwood). The contest was won by Hade Edge Band.
- 23 June 1951 – the Flockton Band, in association with the Cricket Club, organised a band contest on the cricket field, with the test piece "*Macbeth*" (Drake Rimmer). The contest was won by Hade Edge Band.
- 25 August 1951 – the band took first place in Section B of the Huddersfield & District Association contest at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, playing the test piece "*Songs of England*", and were conducted by A.N. Atkins.
- 1 December 1951 – the band competed in the Huddersfield and District Association contest at Huddersfield Town Hall. Conducted by A.N. Atkins, they took 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the own-choice test piece, and 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the march contest. Barbara Nay (23), a player with Kirkburton Victoria Brass Band, agreed to play with Flockton for this contest.
- 1 March 1952 – entering the CISWO Yorkshire 3<sup>rd</sup> Section contest at the City Hall, Sheffield, the band took 1<sup>st</sup> prize with their performance of "*Wayside Scenes*"
- 17 May 1952 – the band competed in the Spring Festival at Belle Vue, Manchester, in the Junior Shield, playing "*Petite Suite de Ballet*" (Eric Ball), they drew number 17 of 22 bands and were unplaced.
- 28 June 1952 – the Flockton Band, in association with the Cricket Club, organised a band contest on the cricket field, with the test piece "*Medea*" (Mercadente). The contest was won by Hade Edge Band.
- 15 November 1952 – the band were unplaced with their performance of "*Hereward*" (Michel Leurent) in the Section 2 contest at Halifax Drill Hall.
- 1 June 1954 – the band took part in the miners' demonstration at Wakefield, some time in this month.
- 13 November 1954 – the band organised a slow melody contest in the village, with 22 entries in the junior class, and 24 in the open class.
- 1 February 1955 – a quartet from Flockton Band took part in the Mrs Sunderland Quartette Competition, winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the afternoon session, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the evening. The players were L. Heppleston (18, 1<sup>st</sup> cornet), W. Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> cornet), G. Ripley (14), and T. Crowther (16, baritone).

- 21 May 1955 – the band entered the Spring Festival at Belle Vue, Manchester, in the Junior Shield, playing “*Indian Summer*” (Eric Ball), they drew number 3 of 22 bands and were unplaced. This was their final contest appearance, and they were conducted by Charlie Westerby.
- November 1955 – the band led the British Legion procession at Middlestown, when a Rest Shelter for old people was dedicated.
- December 1955 – the band’s quartette party played well at the Marsden quartet contest.
- 11 February 1956 – the band held a slow melody contest in the village.

**There is no more news of the band or its activities beyond February 1956.**

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## **A profile of Ernest Thorpe** – [*Brass Band News, October 1936*]

Mr. E. Thorpe has had a varied but successful career. He was born at Flockton, near Wakefield, and began playing the flugel with the local band, changing to the cornet when his family removed to Crigglestone. Later he played solo cornet with the Rise Carr Band, Darlington, with which band he won nine medals under such famous adjudicators as the late Messrs. J. Gladney, E. Swift, R. Stead and H. Barker. He left Darlington for Skelton-in-Cleveland and was not there very long before he was offered and accepted the bandmastership. The band secured several good prizes under his tuition. Then followed a short, but successful, connection with Hebburn Colliery, but he eventually returned to Skelton and, until a serious illness overtook him six years later, won many prizes with them at the Cleveland Association contests.



After his recovery he moved to South Shields and became solo cornet of the well-known Huston Colliery's Band, which was then under the conductorship of Mr. G. Hawkins. At the first four contests he attended with them they secured eight first prizes. Then came a great change; owing to dental trouble he was compelled to give up the cornet, but, nothing daunted, he took over the Eb bass on which he played for several years and assisted the band to win the Belle Vue September contest and a host of other prizes. Then for about five years (from 1921) he acted as conductor of Heworth Colliery and added quite a number of prizes to the band's list.

An invitation came from Harton Colliery to again join them and be their bandmaster. Soon commenced a very successful period for the band, especially at the Crystal Palace contests; second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth prizes were won in the championship section, but the trophy eluded them. The professional teachers who visited the band were Messrs. Halliwell, Greenwood and Lowes.

About eighteen months ago Mr. Thorpe returned to his native place, Flockton. The band were busily re-organising and he was asked to take them to Oldham contest; he did so, and the result was a first prize. Since then the band have had a successful period under his tuition, having won a first prize at Salford, second at Huddersfield, fourth at Sheffield, first at Guiseley, and third in class A section of the recent May Belle Vue contest.

Although this may read as a "rolling stone" record, Mr. Thorpe has gained plenty of practical experience which has stood him in good stead, for many other bands, not mentioned above, have benefited thereby. These include Newcastle Tramways, Felling, Heworth, Usworth, Sherburn Hill, Cockerton, etc. He has done a lot of arranging and his original solos are in the repertoire of quite a number of our leading soloists.

Flockton Band are at present having special rehearsals under Mr. Thorpe's tuition and there is every indication that a very successful season is in front of them. That this may be so and that many more will follow is the wish of his numerous pupils, friends, and colleagues.

**Flockton Brass Band** – [*Musical Progress & Mail, 1938*] by “*White Rose*”

“Flockton Brass Band's centenary will be of great interest not only to all Yorkshire brass bandsmen, but to brass bandsmen in all parts of the British Isles. The record of this band proves conclusively that "Where there's a will, there's a way." The secretary, Mr. Charles Marsden, has the only known copy of the original rules, a neatly printed booklet bearing the date, 1838. "On practice nights and similar meetings a bugle shall sound fifteen minutes before the time of assembling," and any member who ignored this summons for twelve successive nights had his name crossed off. Another of the rules was: "That all the instruments remain as a band so long as two or three members hold together," and considerably more than two or three have held together ever since. There was a fine of one shilling for any member who became quarrelsome and interfered with other members, or used bad language. Mr. Ernest Thorpe is the present conductor of the band, and, in the last four years has been very successful with them at contests. The band has a very strong ladies' committee, who keep their own books and records, and make all their own arrangements, simply handing over the proceeds to the band.”