

A TRIP TO BROWSHOLME HALL

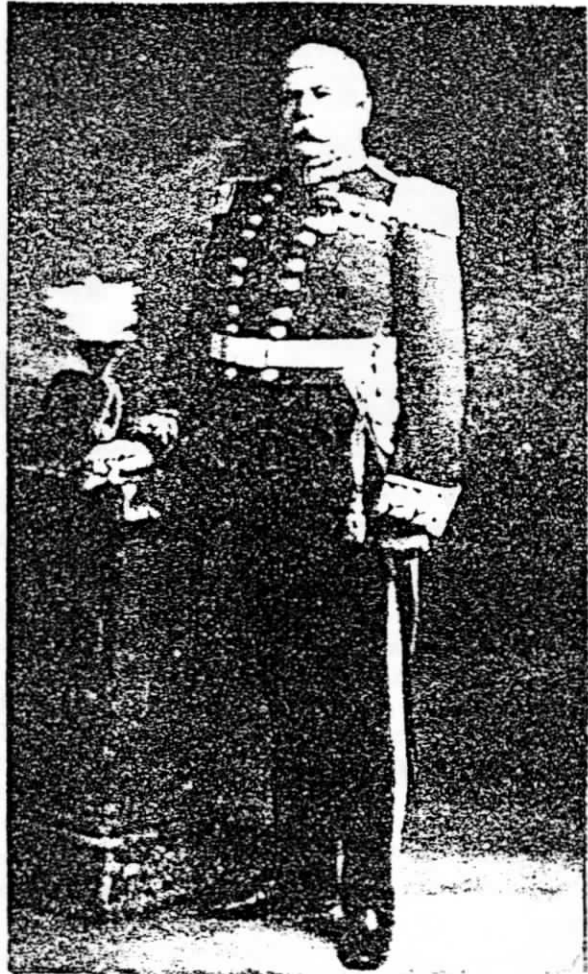
7th November 1901 'Thursday afternoon, the children in attendance in Standard 3 & 4 numbering 16 present were taken to Browsholme Hall to see the numerous things of historical interest. The dining hall was first visited where a number of grand oil paintings hung around. A tremendous life-size one of King Charles 1st and another of the Duke of Buckingham and one of Mary, Queen of Scots, were particularly noticed and in the entrance hall one of Oliver Cromwell. The dress of each was noticed and also in those days, a spear was carried in a sheath, as a weapon of self-defence. Two brass water bottles, used by the Pilgrim Fathers in their journeys stood on a grand oak side-board and we were also shown the flagons and drinking-cups used during the Stuart Period. In the Entrance Hall we saw a shield which had been used during the Battle of Hastings in 1066, and numerous other shields, breast plates, helmets, gloves, boots, swords, guns etc of more recent dates.

Oliver Cromwell with his retinue stayed the night here, during the time of the Civil War, and left a pair of boots. An account of his visit is preserved in the history of Browsholme, and of the amount he payed for food, horses and other things which he retained. A set of complete armour stands in a corner of a grand oak staircase and looks like a man ready for war. Two rifles, used in the present Boer War were also examined. They have been sent over by Major Parker, who is still on duty in South Africa'.

The reference at the end of the account is to Lieutenant-Colonel J.W.R.Parker of Browsholme Hall, who was Supreme Commander of the 800 men of the 3rd Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment, serving in the Boer War in South Africa.

The regiment embarked for Cape Town early in 1900, and their return in March 1902 was a triumphant local occasion. The local papers reported that a large reception committee and the Clitheroe Borough Band met Lieut-Col.Parker at Clitheroe station. From there he was escorted in procession through the town, before driving to Bashall Eaves, where a local reception committee awaited him. From there he proceeded to Browsholme, where his horses were taken out of their shafts, and the carriage was pulled along the drive by the tenants, before refreshments were served to all.

The children of Bashall Eaves school played their own small part in the welcome. The Log Book recorded on 25th March 1902, 'Holiday this afternoon. The scholars had coffee and buns and met at the school to witness the return of Colonel Parker of Browsholme Hall, from South Africa'.



Lieut.-Col. J.W.R.Parker
of the East Lancashire Regiment,
photographed in 1912 when he was
High Sheriff of Yorkshire.