

Janie's Autograph Album

A black covered book with 'Autographs' inscribed on the cover, with pastel coloured pages now faded and discoloured. What a poor state it is in - full of loose pages with 'dog-eared' corners, admired and played with by the Pearson children and grand-children over the years.

However, it is still full of interest; Janie Coulthurst, my mother who lived at Hall Trees, Chipping at the time, used the book in the period 1918 - 20. During this time she was a student at the Lancashire Farm Institute at Hutton where she completed two 9 week courses on Dairying and Poultry Husbandry; contributions are from fellow students and from her friends in Chipping and the surrounding area.

Two water colours painted by A. Sharples of New House (now Lancasters Farm), Thornley in 1919, are the star attractions. One, a still life with fruits and the other of Kelso Abbey and Bridge by moonlight - unfortunately we are unable to reproduce them here. A water colour cartoon, also by A. Sharples, relates to the state of the economy at the end of WW1 - '**Grub's going up!**', showing a caterpillar climbing a tree trunk with an open - mouthed duck looking on (see opposite).

According to my late uncle, Cecil Coulthurst, Archie Sharples was wooing Janie at the time and the following contribution from him in the Album, may relate to this '**One pan of cream may change as well as any other, before you choose a sweetheart, learn the nature of her mother!**'

A cartoon done in crayon by Annie Winder, who lived at Richmonds Farm - '**Excuse bad pen**' refers to nib problems, but shows pigs racing out of a pen with the fence down! (see opposite).

Two of her best friends were Lillie Hoyle, who on her marriage to George Parker lived at Moss Hall, Chipping and Jinnie Seed of Parsonage Farm, Chipping who on her marriage to J. Rich lived at Loud Mytham. Lillie's advice is '**As sure as comes your wedding day, a brush to you I'll send, in sunshine use the bushy part in storms the other end!**' Whilst Jinnie's offering is more optimistic - '**Years pass quickly - may you find each one brings you peace of mind, loving friends, enough of wealth, fair surroundings, perfect health**' - illustrated with flowers and butterflies in pen and ink.

John Pearson