

THE CHIPPING DAIRY

In October 1920 the dairy and the farm were described in the Preston Guardian. "The dairy deals with some 600 gallons of milk daily in the summer months. At present about 500 gallons are coming to hand, and there is a weekly output of about 100 Lancashire cheese of 50lb each. Fancy varieties of cheese are also manufactured. The curd is ground by steam power, and an arrangement is made by which the milk can be received and the whey returned without the farmers entering the dairy. This industry has relieved several farmhouses of the labour which cheese making involves, but unlike the new milk trade, it returns a valuable by-product for stock rearing and pig feeding. Piggeries containing Middle Whites and Berkshire and White crosses adjoin the dairy, and there are between 200 and 300 head of pure bred poultry, and a herd of 23 dairy cows, which is increased during the winter months."



Miss Margaret Knowles in 1907

Once Miss Knowles had settled in Chipping during the First War, she worked energetically fundraising for soldiers' comforts, putting on concerts, sales of work etc. She taught local schoolgirls fancy needlework at the Dairy, and the items they made went to these sales of work.

After the war she continued her voluntary work on behalf of local charities, specially to support hospital funds. She also arranged parties and entertainments for the children of milk suppliers to the dairy.



The faded newspaper picture reproduced above shows Miss Knowles with her Chipping dairy maids when they put on a sketch called "An Unexpected Entertainment" at a concert in the Oddfellows' Hall, Chipping, on April 30th 1922.

Back row left to right:- Miss Skews, Miss Knowles, Miss Brennand, Mrs Holden, Miss M.Singleton, Mrs W.Hardman:

Middle row:- Miss A.Mercer, Miss A.Robinson, Miss H.Harrison, Miss W.Joy.

Front row:- Three dancers from the Preston Parish Church Schools, Miss A.Walker, Miss I.Cowell, and Miss A.Fazackerley.

The information in this account is from local residents; from the County Farm Sub Committee Minutes, and the Brabin's Trustees' Correspondence at the Lancs. Record Office; from various issues of the Preston Guardian on microfilm at the Harris Library, Preston, e.g. 9th Nov 1907, 9th Oct 1920, and 6th May 1920.