

## SHEEP WASHING AT CHIPPING

The two photographs opposite were taken at Lower Cock Hill, Chipping. The sheep washing session was in the dammed brook, which is a tributary of the River Loud, alongside Nob Barn Lane, which runs from Moss Hall towards Blacksticks - the stone Nob Barn is close by and the stone wall in the background is still there. Parlick can be seen in the background.

The girl in the top left hand photograph is my mother Jane Pearson (nee Coulthurst) always known as Janie, who was born at Moss Hall in November 1901, the eldest and only daughter of John Richard Coulthurst who was born at Lower Cock Hill and his wife Annie (nee Hodgkinson) who was born at Isaacs House. The photographs were taken c.1905, probably in May as the thorn blossom is clearly visible. It is interesting to note that everyone except the 'washer' is wearing a waistcoat.

In the top left hand photograph is Janie's Uncle Fred Coulthurst - second from the right in the light coloured trilby-type hat, who later married Mary Yates from Bleasdale, who had become his housekeeper at Lower Cock Hill, when his parents retired to one of the cottages at Black Hall. John Dilworth from Hough Clough is to the right of Fred in the cap.

In the lower left hand photograph is Janie's father John Richard Coulthurst, immediately above the sheep outside the pen, wearing a cap and sporting a moustache. Her grandfather John Coulthurst of Lower Cock Hill is on the extreme right of this photograph with the beard.

It was the norm for neighbours to help out with these seasonal tasks, so some of them on the photographs were most probably from Blacksticks, Brown Brook, Out Lane Head, Crag House, Handlesteads, Cold Coates, Richmond Houses and Hall Trees.

John Pearson

