

at clipping time next year, and made wrapping the fleece difficult. His father used to salve, but John couldn't remember the recipe. The sheep was held on its side, the fleece was parted and it was salved. They just did about three strips each side and over the back. He has no recollections of washing at Chipping or elsewhere. He thinks both washing and salving were social occasions, where neighbours helped each other and no money was exchanged.



Ted Airey. There were steps down into the brook at Thornley Hall, which they always thought had been used for washing sheep. When they went there in 1932, there were four tubs of a type of grease left there, which they always thought were sheep salve. They never did any sheep washing. There was a place in Burnslack Brook, above Burnslack Farm, where there were pens, which he thought was a sheep wash. The water from the brook was fed through a thing like a culvert without a top, which he thought was the wash.

Harry Moon. Lawrence Rawcliffe was at Bradley Hall prior to 1938 when Harry's family went there. There was one pen in the brook across the road from the house where the brook was dammed for washing. His family never washed sheep. There are possible foundations of the pen walls left.

Harold Metcalf. He used to live at Little Blacksticks and remembers washing in a long trough in the yard using a bucket. They did it about a fortnight before clipping.

Harry Richardson. Lived at Myerscough as a boy, but not on a farm. He remembers going to the Bargh's at Head Nook, near the College. They had a sheep pen by the wall in the canal and washed in the canal using a long brush. There were complaints as the fish were killed. Later, they washed through a dipper at the same place. They got more money for washed wool. He remembers them salving on stocks at the same place. It was done to waterproof the sheep. The salve was ready mixed in tubs. It all stopped in the 1930's. Rueben Ross at Clitheroe sold whale oil for salving. Harry got into serious trouble one day, as when the men had gone to milk the cows he salved the farm dog!

George Yates. The family lived at Ramsclough and they had a sheep wash there. They dammed a brook up. You got more for washed wool, then it was not worth it as the wool lost weight. It was done before clipping. A man called Redpath lived at Hesketh End, and kept sheep on Ganna Fell near the New Drop. When he was taking his sheep home he washed them in the wash at Knott Farm in the River Loud. This wash was used by farmers round about. Of salving, he says there was much scab about around 1900. Duke Bleazard at Moor Game Hall, Kemple End, had very bad scab. He used a salve, a green ointment, which had a good result.

Ted Rich. Frank Marsden and others washed sheep in a big pool at the far end of the field behind the Talbot. There was a concrete slab in Chipping Brook, which made a deep pool where the water was diverted to the cut for the water wheel at the mill across the road. Washing was to help the rise to come and make clipping easier. Ted came to Chipping in War time, and thinks washing continued there until about 1950.

Robert Pye. He has never seen any washing done, but has been told that sheep washing used to be done in what is known as the whirlpool, below the stepping stones across the first brook up the road to Lickhurst, where there is now a bridge.

Harold Rowland. He was seven when his family left Whitmore Farm at Whitewell in 1935. He remembers his father damming up a stream to wash in to the North-West of the farm. It was done mostly to wash peat from the fleeces of fell sheep. It was mainly a fell man's job. Fell sheep rubbed in the peat hags and picked up a lot of peat.

Agnes Marsden. She lived at Head O'th Moor Farm at Chaigley as a girl, where her father, John (Jack) Holden, had a wooden dipping tub, which was also used to wash sheep. It was situated by the side of a trough in the yard and the water was got from there. Agnes thinks it finished in the 1940's.

Francis Mercer. He washed at Seeds at Higher Whitewell when he worked there. They washed through the dipper ten days before clipping. It helped the rise, made them easier to clip, and they got more money for washed wool. You ticked the box on the wool merchant's card for washed wool. They carried on washing there until the 1960's. Many of the hill farmers still use the term 'wash dub hill' for places where wash dubs have been.

