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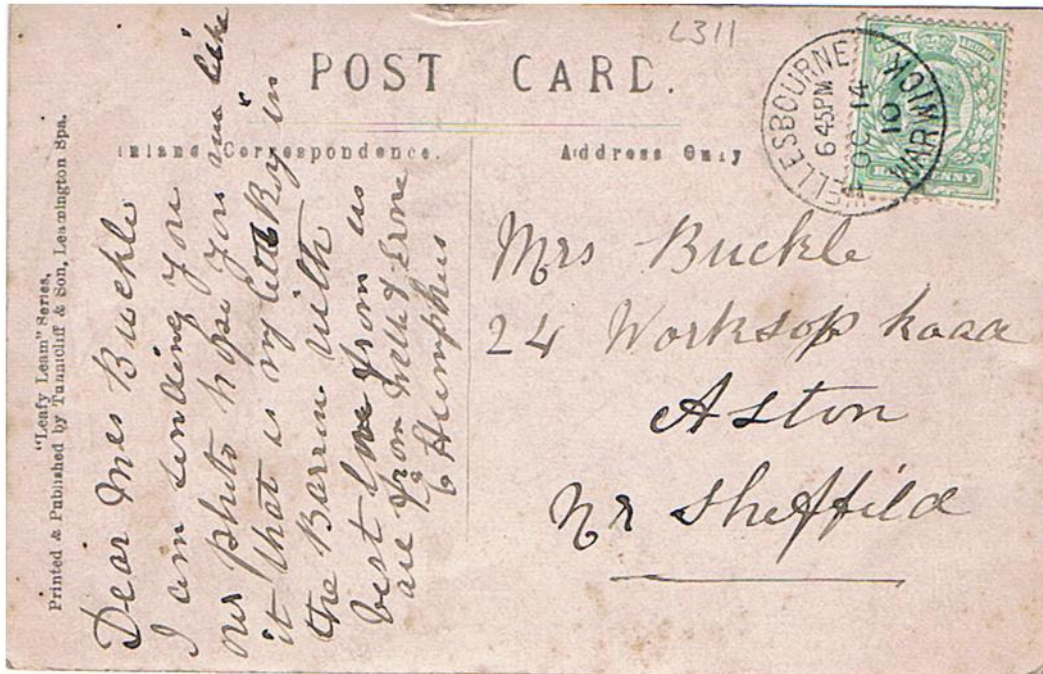
Two Interesting Lighthorne Postcards

by Colin Such (2015)

I have recently been able to extend my collection of old Lighthorne postcards by bidding successfully on Ebay. The postcards were offered by the same vendor and it would appear that they came from the same collection, as both have been postally used and both are addressed to Worksop Road, Aston, Near Sheffield.



The first card features Church Cottages, with villagers posed outside. It was published by the Leamington photographers, Tunnicliff & Son.



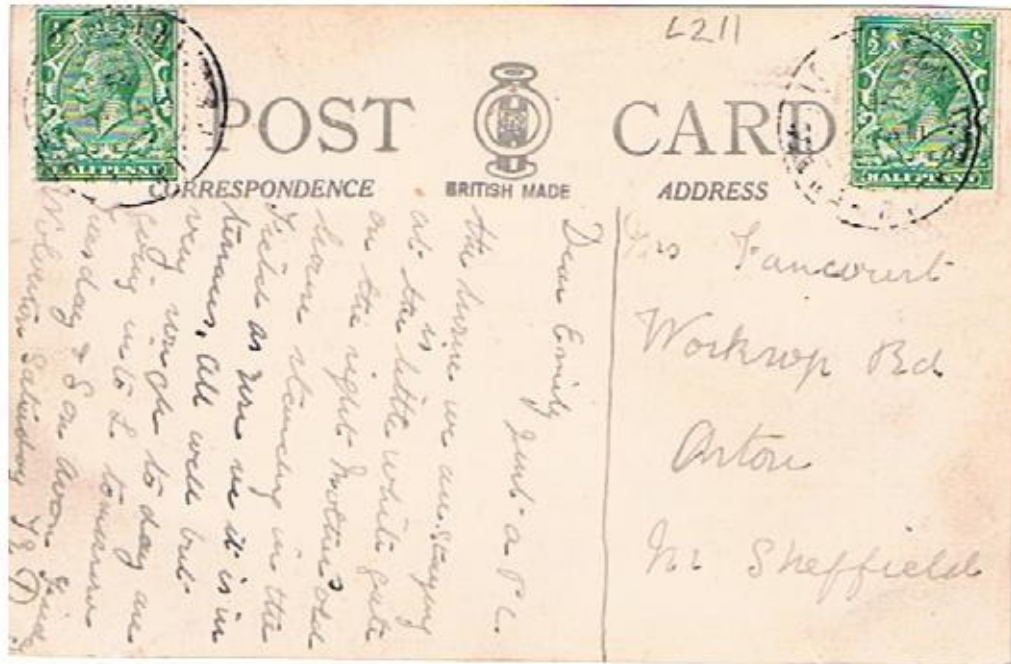
The postcard is franked with a 1/2 d. Edward VII stamp and is postmarked with the circular date stamp of Wellesbourne on October 14 1910. It bears the message

*Dear Mrs Buckle
I am sending you our photo hope you like it that is my little Boy in the Barrow with best love from us all from Nelle & Erne.
E. Humphris*



The second of the two cards features a view of Church Lane and The Bank, taken from the end of Post Office Lane, before construction of the 1970s houses. The cottage in the foreground is the thatched cottage

“Mousehole”, now replaced with a more recent house with the same name. On The Bank are the 2 rows of Bank Cottages that were demolished in the 1960s. In front of the more easterly block is “Southview”, which has recently been extended to the left. To the right behind “Southview” is “Bank Cottage”. This card was published by C.W. Thornton of Stratford-on-Avon.



The reverse of this postcard is interesting for several reasons. It is franked by 2 1/2d stamps of the George V 1912-26 series. My philatelic knowledge tells me that both stamps were detached from a booklet of stamps. The rate for postcards had increased to 1d when this card was used. The cancellation was done at the Old Post Office in Post Office Lane and the date stamp is that of Lighthorne, though it is difficult to read. The month is August and the year is either 1914 or 1924, but as the increase in postage rates did not occur until 1918, the date on the cancellation must be 1924.

The message on the card is as follows;

Dear Emily

Just a P.C. the house we are staying at is the little white gate on the right. Mother's old house standing in the Field as you see it is in terraces. All well but very rough today are going into L tomorrow Tuesday S on Avon Friday Wolverton Saturday

FED

The addressee on the card is Mrs Fancourt, Worksop Road, but without a house number. Was Mrs Fancourt residing in the same house Mrs Buckle was 14 years earlier? Surely they must have been in the same house otherwise the postcards would not have been collected together in the same album. What was the relationship between Mrs Buckle and Mrs Fancourt? Who was FED, whose mother used to reside in Lighthorne, in one of the Bank Cottages? Did her mother know Nelle and Ernest Humphris who lived just down the lane in Church Cottages? Who were Mrs Buckle and Emily Fancourt? Were they widowed sisters? Did they once live in Lighthorne?

The 1911 census reveals that Mary Ann Buckle, 62, widow, was living in Aston, Sheffield, with her son John, 33, her daughter Emily Fancourt, 28, son-in-law Philip Fancourt, 32 and 2 lodgers. Both Mary and Emily were born in Aston and I could find no Lighthorne connection. Philip was from Notts.

I next looked up the various Humphriss families resident in Lighthorne in the 1911 census and found an entry for the family which contained a son of approximately the right age for the little boy in the barrow on the postcard. The fact that the surname was spelt with a double s did not worry me, as the spelling of a name was less important in those days. The family's head was George Humphriss, 47, an estate bricklayer, who was living with his wife, Ellen Maria (from where the diminutive version "Nelle"), 43. They had been married 13 years and were living with their two sons, George William, 11 and Ernest Arthur, 5. Also in the household was George Humphriss, 24, described by household head, George, as a brother-in-law, which is strange, unless his wife's maiden name was also Humphriss. I checked the online records and found out that indeed this was the case. George's parents were William and Harriet Humphriss and William's father was George. Ellen Maria's father was Job Humphriss whose father was Joseph. Job's first wife died and he remarried and had a son George, who was Ellen Maria's half brother. It is this George, Ellen Maria's half brother, who is living with George and Nelle in the 1911 census and George, the household head, is quite correct in calling George the lodger his brother-in-law.

So, the "E. Humphriss" who is the signatory on the postcard is Ellen Humphriss and she refers to herself and Erne, her son, who is seated in the barrow. Presumably when the photographer came to the village, George, her husband was at work on the Verney estate, as was George, her half brother and George William, her son, was at school, a few hundred yards away on the Bank.

With respect to the sender of the 2nd postcard, FED, I have not been able to find anyone with these initials in the 1911 census. However the sender may have been a married woman and although her mother used to live at Bank Cottages, the surname of the family may not have started with the letter D.

If anyone has further thoughts or information, please contact me via the History Society contacts page.