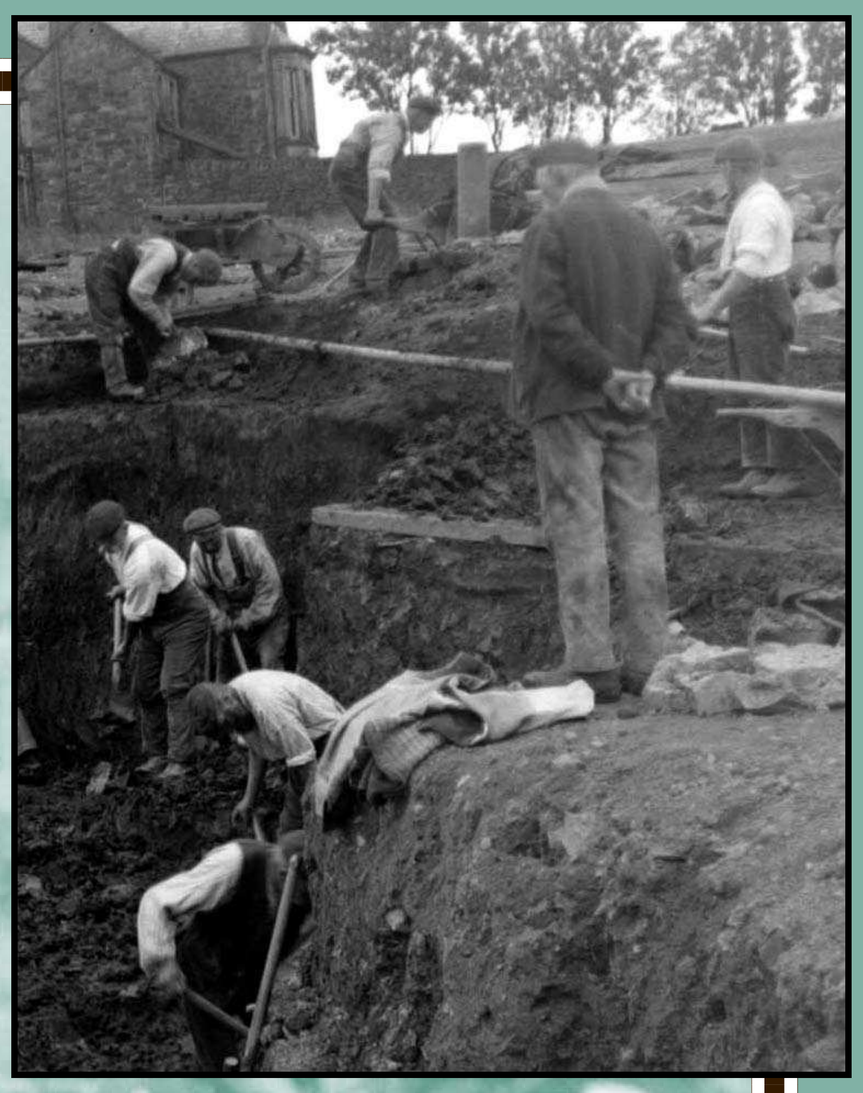
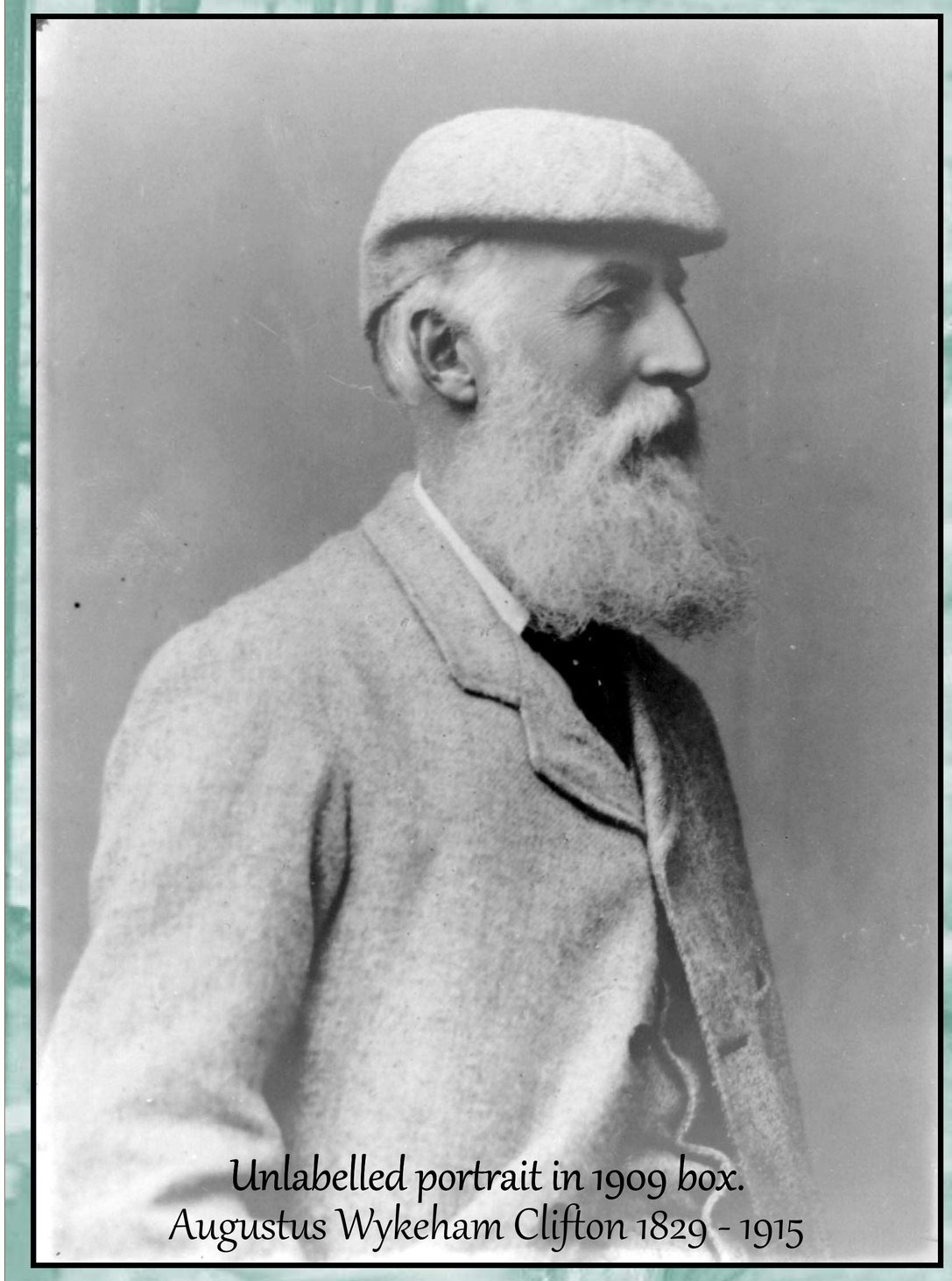
People

The man with his hands behind his back seems to be supervising the construction in this photo of 1909 ... but who is he? At first it was thought he could be the same man as in this fine portrait from the 1909 box of slides; this however is Augustus Wykeham Clifton, a director of the water company to 1898.

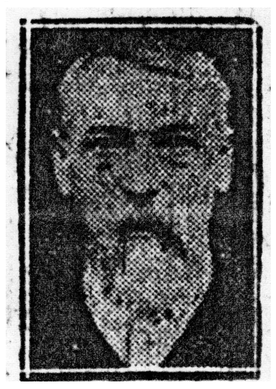




Unlabelled portrait in 1909 box.
Augustus Wykeham Clifton 1829 - 1915

But perhaps this obituary from the Preston Guardian in 1916 solves the mystery ...

THE LATE Mr. C. J. ROBINSON – The interment took place at St. John's Calder Vale, of Mr. Christopher John Robinson, late of Reservoir House, Barnacre. Deceased who was 65 years of age, died at the residence of his niece, 54 , Dallas-street, Preston on August 23rd. A native of Barnacre, he spent his childhood at Burns Farm, Barnacre. His first appointment was as an inspector under the Fylde Water Board and he was placed in charge of the reservoir at Barnacre which is now little used. When the three new reservoirs were built he was given charge of them and resided at Reservoir House. For 45 years he remained in the employment of the Board, retiring nine months ago owing to ill health, and going to reside with his niece Mrs. Johnson, first at Forton, and later at Dallas-street, Preston. With the exception of the nine months he spent the whole of his lifetime in Barnacre. His grandfather and also his father resided in the same neighbourhood for many years. The latter died ten years ago and is buried at Calder Vale. Of a retiring disposition, deceased took no active part in public affairs but seemed to make his work a lifetime hobby. He was a member of the Adelaide Lodge (Garstang) of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows and was well-known and highly respected by a large circle of friends. Deceased had been ill for about 12 months. His wife died about nine years ago, and his brother Mr. W. Robinson of Haworth Farm Barnacre, who was a well-known cattle dealer, died 12 months ago. Deceased leaves four sons and one daughter. The eldest son lives at Barnacre, two others are in Canada, and the fourth is in the Orkney Islands. The daughter resides at Lancaster. The Rev. G. H. Wilson officiated at the funeral, and the four oldest employees of the Fylde Water Board acted as bearers. The chief mourners were relatives of the deceased, and there were numerous floral tributes, including a wreath from his former employers.

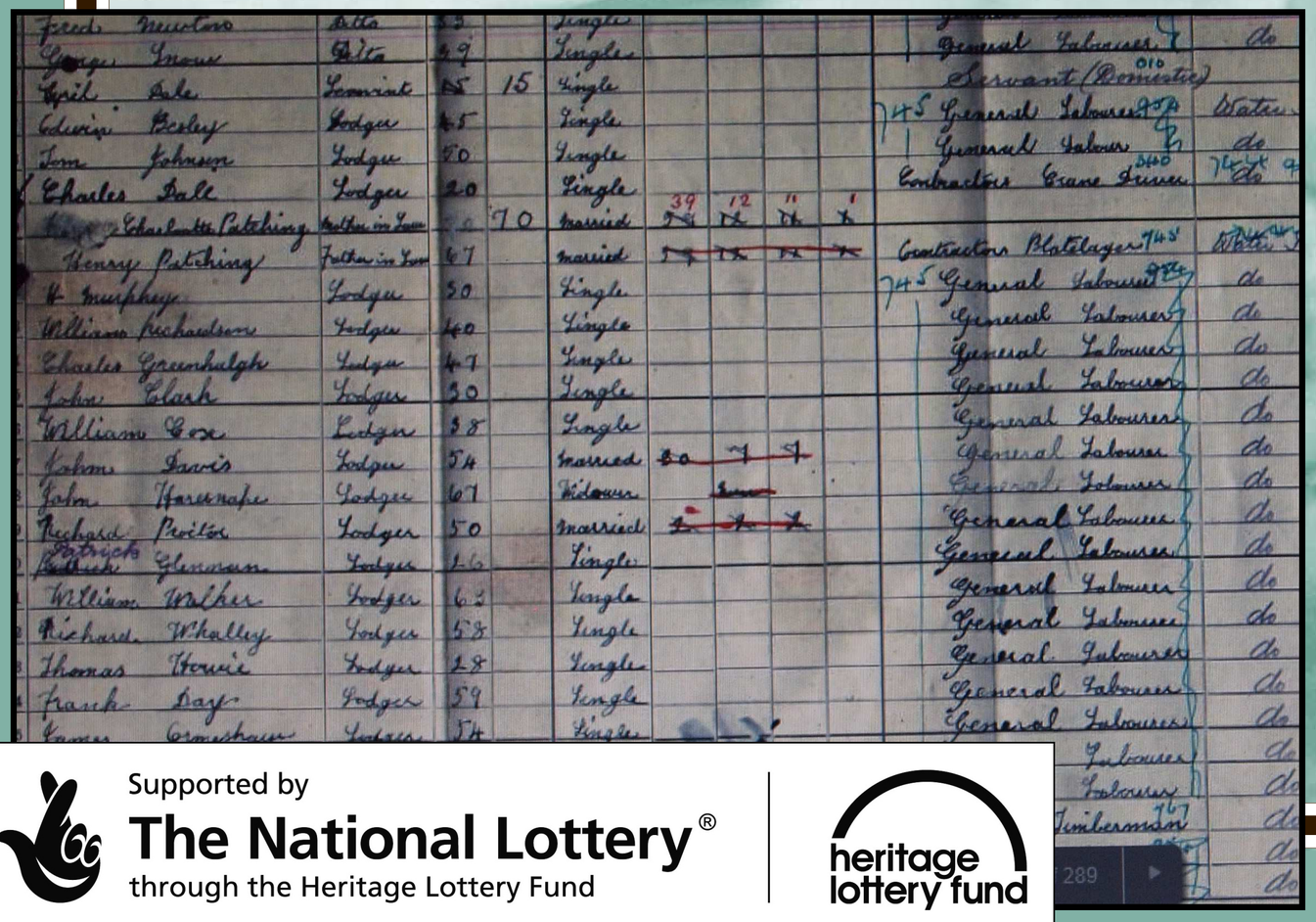


Preston Guardian September 2nd ? 1916

Before the war Thomas P. Longworth worked as a blacksmith on the construction of the new Grizedale Lea Reservoir. The Blacksmith's Shop was in the old farm buildings. The blacksmith would have sharpened and repaired tools and equipment for the hundreds of men working on the site.

Inscribed on a panel at the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

The census of 1911 shows that many men working the site were single or widowers between 40 and 70 years of age. Photographs also show this.



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