

The Ferryboat between East and West Butterwick



● The Ferrymen in the picture (in shirt sleeves) are : left—Fred Garner; right—Albert Garner.

April 1896

Misfortunes on the Trent.- On Wednesday, a travelling draper crossed the ferry here, arriving at the other side. It was the intention of the parties in charge to yoke the trap at the bottom of the landing when from some cause the trap backed into the Trent with its load of drapery, parcels etc., necessitating a sale of goods damaged by water the following day. Mr George Smith had the misfortune to have his watch (a valuable one), drawn overboard the same day whilst engaged in putting some "Leaps" into the Trent and was not able to recover it.

August 15th 1903

Mr George Garner, ferryman was suddenly incapacitated from work on Tuesday evening by the bursting of a varicose vein. The loss of blood was rather serious and Dr Field was immediately wired for, but fortunately the bleeding was stopped previous to his arrival. Under Dr Field's treatment Mr Garner is regaining his usual form.

September 2nd 1905

Some horses were being brought across the river on Thursday morning, and on arrival at the West side, became restive and refused to land, knocking about in the boat to the danger of those in charge. The owner of the horses Mr R Selby, Epworth and the owner of the ferry Mr Brunyee, both received a ducking, each thinking it the lesser evil to jump in the Trent than to collide with the restive horse in the boat.

September 18th 1909

Last weekend Mr A.J. Godfrey and Mr G.W. Brown were crossing the Trent in the Ferry boat at a time when two steam Tugs each with a string of laden keels in tow, were passing and other down the river. The ferry boat got between the two lines of vessels and came in violent contact with one of the keels. Mr Godfrey fell into the river but fortunately was seized by Mr Brown and hauled in again. He was none the worse for his immersion, but received an injury to his leg.

November 29th 1909

Trentside residents and frequenters of the ferry betwixt East and West Butterwick will shortly miss a familiar figure from their midst- Mr George Garner, the popular ferryman, who is retiring from the manipulation of boats to become the landlord of "The Jolly Sailor" at Gunness. A large amount of traffic is dealt with at this ferry, and it is due to Mr Garner that no accident to person or property has befallen during the 28 years working. He has also been the moving spirit in the annual regatta, and has taken keen interest in the local Dividend Society, of which he has officiated as the treasurer.