

John Dearlove's bands in Yorkshire

Gavin Holman, 4 February 2023

John Thomas Dearlove was born on 17 November 1845, at 10 Clarksons Yard, Quarry Hill, Leeds, and was baptised on 1 June 1846, at Leeds Parish Church. His father, Mark William Dearlove was a violin maker, and his mother Hannah was Mark's second wife. He had a large number of siblings (full and half) and several of the older brothers worked with Mark in the musical instrument workshop. The business had been started by Mark's father, also Mark Dearlove, and continued after Mark senior's death in 1820 by his widow, Mary, and later his son, Mark.



In addition to making violins and violincellos, and selling other musical instruments, Mark Dearlove also taught music, including the 'patent keyed bugle'.



Mark Dearlove



Hannah Dearlove, née Buck, wife of Mark

It is no surprise that John joined the family business, working as a French polisher for his father by the age of 16, and also learning to play various musical instruments. However, he left the Dearlove company a few years later and set out on his own as an entertainer – having an act as a comedian and musician. He married his first wife, Emma Shillito, daughter of a Leeds painter, in 1865, with whom he had two children – Hannah (1865) and Florence (1867). It was presumably a 'shotgun' wedding as Hannah was born just one month after their marriage. Sadly, Emma died in 1868.

In 1871 he was lodging at 45 Tolbooth Wyat, Leith, Edinburgh, and gave his occupation as 'comedian'. During his time in Leith he met and married his second wife, Jane Puller Gallettia. They lived in the town for the next year until her death in 1872.

John Dearlove returned to Leeds, and went into business as a painter, perhaps in conjunction with his ex-father-in-law, Mr Shillito. He maintained his musical interests by forming an amateur band with local musicians which performed on occasion in and around Leeds.

He married his third wife, Harriet Boshell, in 1873, with whom he had thirteen children - John Thomas (1874-1940), William Henry (1876-1949), Alfred Boshell (1877-1926), Harriet (1879-1880), Arthur (1881-1970), George Walter (1883-1960), Mark Albert (1885-1962), Joseph Anthony (1886-1889), Charlotte Harriet (1888-1974), Edith Ellinor (1890-1892), Joseph Edward (1892-1892), Lily Ada (1893-1956), and Charles Edward (1896-1982).

Dearlove's Band was engaged to perform with Simon's Menagerie when it visited the area around 1875. The photograph below shows the Band: from the left, standing: J. Grundy (keeper), John Gansinger (trombone) [1838-1883], T. Marriott (tenor horn), L. Smith (euphonium), Arthur Dearlove (bass) [1840-1892]. Sitting, from the left: J. Simon (menagerie proprietor), Jacob Theobald (cornet) [1845-1879], John Dearlove (leader, cornet), S. Pattenden (solo cornet), ? (drummer). Lying in front: Lambetti (the lion tamer).





Dearlove's Band, in Harrogate, c. 1897

- 2 May 1896 – Primrose League Ball, Harrogate Drill Hall
- 26 November 1896 – Annual Demonstration of the Harrogate Habitation of the Primrose League
- 1 January 1897 – Anniversary of the “Harmony” Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, at the Oddfellows Hall, Harrogate
- 21 January 1898 – Annual Ball of Aldborough & Boroughbridge Football Club, at the National Schoolroom
- July 1898 – Performing in the Valley Gardens, Harrogate (fee of £8 per week for ten performances, with 3d being charged for admission).
- 26 January 1899 – Second Annual Social of the Harrogate Traders’ Association, at the George Hotel.
- 28 January 1899 – John Smith’s Brewery Social, at Tadcaster Town Hall
- 13 April 1900 – a performance of the “*Messiah*”, at the Congregational Church, Harrogate

In 1901 the Dearloves lived at 1 Providence Terrace, Pannal, Harrogate, with John listed as a musician, as was his son, John Thomas junior.

During this period John Thomas junior joined his father in his musical activities, and went on to continue the Dearlove Band and Orchestra tradition in Harrogate after John Dearlove’s death in January 1903, through into the late 1910’s.



Dearlove's Band, c. 1900



*Dearlove's Band, c. 1895, Royal Baths Harrogate
Alfred Boshell Dearlove (cornet, far left), William Henry Dearlove (harp), John Thomas Dearlove junior (violin, centre), George Walter Dearlove (drummer), Arthur Dearlove (double bass), John Thomas Dearlove senior (flute & piccolo)*



Dearlove's Orchestra

John's son, Charles Edward Dearlove (1896-1982), made music his career, joining the army as a musician on 9 February 1916. He played clarinet and violin, and served with the Royal Army Services Corps (Private 282344). Another, Mark Albert Dearlove (1885-1962), was a flautist, also serving in the Army during WW1.



John Thomas Dearlove junior



Charles Edward Dearlove, c. 1918



Mark Albert Dearlove

This photograph shows later musical members of the Dearlove family in front of a recreation of the Leeds Dearlove music shop, at the Abbey House Museum, Leeds, in 1958, where they played a recital.





Interior of the Dearlove shop, as displayed in the museum