

Roll: **19120725-0607**

Camera: **Monochrome Print: MPS**

**Subject:**

Donkeys in Bridlington.

**Notes:**

A remarkable picture, created as a postcard, I think there are thirty seven mounted donkeys, two donkey carts and an impressive motorbike in view.

There is a lady in the picture that does look very much like "Hardy's Corslus wife", as mentioned on the postcard from Normanton in 19th July 1914, but nobody else seems familiar. It looks as if it might be the start of a mass donkey race but the children standing in front would militate against that.

I searched long and hard for an hotel of those proportions both using the names over the doorways (Claremont and Astoria) and comparing the picture with images of sea fronts, particularly those from the period, but without success. I searched for Summer Gardens and things beginning with Waterloo again finding no joy. Having given up on the location I started enlarging sections of the picture to correct small aberrations and it was then that the mystery was solved. If you look along the roof line, after eight attic windows, approximately in the centre of the building, there are the elevated letters of the name "ASTORIA" and below this is the plaque "ALBION TERRACE". From this it was easy, this is the Astoria Hotel in Bridlington.

The building is still there but seems to have been converted into apartments. I can find no reference to or pictures of, any other mass donkey rides. I do seem to have something rather special here.

The weather in July of 1912 was pretty awful, wet and unseasonably cold. Rainfall was 200-250% of modern averages.

The weather may in part have been affected by a veil of high-altitude volcanic dust from the Alaskan eruption that formed the Novarupta volcano. The eruption lasted sixty hours and was the largest to occur in the twentieth Century.

In August it was even wetter, the wettest August in fact recorded in the England and Wales Precipitation series.

I have not identified the motorbike as yet but the registration number, "AL1984" is one that was issued in Nottinghamshire.

**Dates:**

The date is included in the print (which may indicate that it was taken by a professional roving photographer as if it printed directly on to postcard stock I can't think how the date was added. On the other hand the writing does look very informal so for that reason I have ascribed Grandad Fulford as the photographer.). There are no discernible shadows to indicate the time of day.

**Frames:**

MPS-0003 19120712 12:00:00 Preparing for the off.

TXT-0003 19120712 12:00:00 Postcard.



MPS-0003 - Donkeys at the Claremont.