THE MOURHOLME MAGAZINE OF LOCAL HISTORY

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THE MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

Simon Williams

The Society now has its own website: **www.mourholme.co.uk**

Like all websites, ours is a work in progress, but we have already posted short summary histories for most of our townships and villages on the website, with more to follow. We have also started galleries of old photographs from the Society's archives, and would be very interested if members have old photographs they think others would be interested in – buildings, people, or events from the past.

The website was constructed with the help of a long-standing firm in Milnthorpe – A2A, but the content is entirely controlled by ourselves. This means we can quickly change or add content – such as details of meetings and visits – or news items relevant to our area.

For a website to be attractive to the wider world, we needed what is known as a "killer application", and we think we have one. The entire archive of the Society's magazines since Issue 1 in 1982 up until 2010 (with more to be added shortly) can be accessed through the website. Every article is indexed, and a Search box is provided to make research even easier. There are scores of articles provided by past and current members, each representing hours, days or even months of research. The archive makes fascinating reading, and now those articles are brought back to life. For more, go to our website, click on Publications, and you will find 3 pages of indexed articles. Click on any issue and an image of that magazine will open (be patient…it may take

a minute or two to load up, depending upon your PC and the speed of your broadband).

The website will grow and develop over time – and we are very open to suggestions for contents: please contact me at simon@mourholme.co.uk

The Mourholme Magazine of Local History,
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STREET LIGHTING FOR CARNFORTH (Part Two)

Clive Holden

A list of people involved in the debate about street lighting in Carnforth appears in Figure 2 at the end of the article.

The story so far

In the last part of the account of the time it took to light the streets of Carnforth, we left the lighting committee at the meeting on the 16th April 1884 when it would present its report. The meeting took place in the National School, with Mr. Ibison in the chair, and a large attendance. The committee had met on three occasions, and everyone had agreed that it was desirable to light the township. The chairman had ensured that no member of the committee had any interest in the gas-works, and they had worked out a modest scheme, details of which can be seen in Figure 1, below.

The committee next considered the cost of providing lamps. Mr. Ibison and Mr. Lancaster had made enquiries of various civil and gas engineers and chairmen of township authorities, and had concluded that they should begin burning gas from 1st October until 1st April, 184 nights in all. On moonlight nights (five per month) there would be no need for gas, making only 154 gas-lit nights. Each lamp would burn five feet of gas per hour (twenty five feet each night), thus consuming 3,850 feet of gas per season, costing seventeen shillings; the cost of lighting, cleaning and extinguishing the lamps would bring the total up to twenty two shillings. This proposed scheme could be met by a rate of one penny in the £1 for lighting, and a further rate of two pence for the first year would meet the cost of providing and erecting lamps and posts.

At the South end of Bessemer Terrace *(became Hall St, now part of Lancaster Rd)*
At the north end of Bessemer Terrace opposite the cross street;
Near the [Carnforth] Lodge
At the end of Stanley Street;
At the top of Oxford Street;
At the top of Nelson Street *(where was that?)*
Just opposite Mr. Lancaster's house at the bend in the road
At the corner of Russell Road
Between the two blocks of houses known as Booker and Bank Terraces *(now both parts of Kellet Road)*
On the Carnforth side of houses before the canal bridge
At the canal bridge corner
In front of the Shovel Hotel
Just opposite Mr. Bainbridge's farm
Opposite the footpath leading down to the canal
Two others further up the canal footpath
One at the four lane ends *(the North Road/Kellet Road junction or the Lancaster Road/Market Street junction?)*
One at the turning to the Congregational chapel, Scotland Road
One at the turning up to the turnpike road leading to Edward Street
Between Mr. Askew's & Dr. Jackson's premises *(Market Street)*
One opposite New Street and near Mr. E. Whinnerah's[16]
One at the turning down to the station
One at the bridge leading to the ironworks near (?) the offices
One at the bend just opposite the ironworks offices;
One just by the steelworks
One under each of the under the first and second bridges
One in the direction of Hagg Farm;
Possibly two in the new street – one at the corner of the Albion Hotel, and the other about the middle of the street

Figure 1: The positions of the lamps as proposed at the committee meeting, 16th April 1884.

The chairman realised that not everybody would benefit at first, but there were plans for those places such as Crag Bank not yet reached by the mains. If a poll was demanded, then so be it, but the Act would have to be adopted first. After a few questions from the floor, which were answered confidently with assurances that finances were sound, the matter was put to the vote and the Lighting Act was adopted by ninety votes to thirteen. All was well at last – or so it seemed.

Frustration….and success

At last the Lighting Act had been adopted and all seemed well, but immediately five of the farming community, Messrs. Thomas Jackson, John Ruddick, James Caley, Jonathan Wood and William Roskell handed a requisition demanding a poll of ratepayers. The business of the meeting continued, and it was decided that there should be nine Inspectors with powers to call for £125 in the ensuing year, but the meeting closed with the threat of a poll hanging over it.

The 'Lancaster Guardian' retained its optimism with the following editorial in the issue of April 19th:

I hear that the ratepayers of Carnforth have at length decided by a large majority to adopt the provisions of the Watching and Lighting Act and to have the streets of their town lighted at night with a number of lamps. It has often been a subject of wonder to me that Carnforth has been so backward on this question. Examples of a stimulating kind have been exhibited to the dwellers by the Keer by communities not otherwise so prosperous as Carnforth. I mention Ingleton, Bentham, Galgate and Skerton…Carnforth, however, has for a long time thought meanly of itself, and has judged that Carnforth was not worth being lighted. In all other respects Carnforth has been something of a model of progress. No place around these parts

has increased so rapidly; no citizens could have been more energetic than the citizens of Carnforth. A good many of the new houses in the place are held and owned by working men who have had faith in their resources and future and in the future of their town. Public gas-works and public water-works have been established; no town of its size is so well endowed with handsome and commodious places of worship; the National School has recently been enlarged to almost enormous dimensions; the place is provided with reading rooms and other useful institutions; and on every hand evidences are exhibited of enterprise and progress. Perhaps it is that Carnforth has already a fairly large burden of rate to carry, which has hindered the adoption of street illumination. Perhaps it is that the people have thought there was already a good illumination from those 'bursts of fire' which are constantly being thrown up from the chimneys of the great ironworks. Clearly, however…the light that has been shed on Carnforth hitherto has not been very great. That has now to be amended. Carnforth is resolved to take another step in its social progress, and assuredly I think the step will not be regretted.

But by 3rd May the tone was not so cheerful:
I hear that the public lighting of Carnforth is not to be effected without some little trouble. The farmers of the township are objecting to be taxed for the benefit of Carnforth's town…The common difficulty in townships which are half urban and half rural is that there is a separation of the interests of the farmers from the interests of the urban population…Farmers who dwell away on the outskirts of a township cannot realise that they are under any obligation to pay anything towards the provision for the people dwelling in the village centre of the township, of water, or sewage or light. [And] in all cases where they receive no benefit, farmers are oppressively taxed. This is one of the

many points in which our present system of local government is defective, and it is one of the many facts which should go to convince farmers that their interests should lead them to give their votes to the party which has the Reform of County Government for one of the planks in its platform... [The Liberal Party is] a strong force in the locality, and [farmers] will be doing a good thing in adding their voices to the national testimony of confidence in Mr. Gladstone and the government at this time.

However, the following week it was announced that a poll had been taken, and the Act adopted with 234 in favour and 91 against.

The qualification for becoming an inspector.

On 21st May 1884 a meeting of ratepayers, Mr. T. Stephenson sen. in the chair, was held in the National School to appoint a committee of nine inspectors. Sixteen names had been proposed and seconded. The chairman pointed out that to be eligible, a candidate must reside within the parish; have premises rateable at £15; and must be proposed and seconded by other qualified ratepayers However, Mr. Lancaster and others disagreed, insisting that gross annual value was what mattered. Messrs. Ibison and Clarkson supported the chairman's view, in which case Mr. Lancaster would have been disqualified, but Mr. Stirzaker proposed, and another ratepayer seconded, that Mr. Lancaster's name should remain on the list of candidates. When Mr. Clarkson again spoke up, he became embroiled in an argument with Mr. Lancaster, who claimed that Clarkson's rates had not been paid, and the argument was rapidly becoming heated when Mr. Stephenson stepped in to say that Mr. Clarkson's rates had indeed not been paid, but he had given the overseers a valid reason for the omission, and when his dispute

with the overseers was dealt with he would have to pay whether he wished to or not. This led to an altercation between Mr. Clarkson and Mr. Orr, Clarkson claiming that he had arranged to make the payment, and Orr claiming that Clarkson had failed to turn up to make the payment. Once again Mr. Stephenson had to step in to restore order and get down to the election of inspectors. Several candidates withdrew their names, among them the chairman and Mr. Ruddick who, as Overseers, were not eligible, and the following were elected as Inspectors: Thomas. Stephenson jun; S. Wrightson; W. Ibison; T. Clark; T. Lancaster; T. Jackson; J. Atkinson; J. Williams; and J. Wood.

This was an unfortunate decision because Mr. Lancaster proved to be ineligible, and had to be replaced at a later meeting by Mr. Clarkson, thus causing delay for several months. At the end of August 1884 no moves had been made to erect lamps, though they were supposed to be lit on 1st October. It was known that of the lamps, one in Russell Road, another in Highfield and two in New Street would have to be lit by oil until the Gas Company laid mains to them. The contract for supplying and erecting the lamps was won by Mr. Gaffney, one having already been erected independently by the LNWR on the approach to the railway station.

A pleasant and welcome sight

On October 11th 1884 the Lancaster Guardian printed a brief article which had obviously been prepared a few days previously:

Carnforth is no longer to be denied the advantages arising from street lamps, a benefit which many places of far less importance are already enjoying, for at six o'clock on 10th October the principal streets are to be lighted up. The illumination, we feel certain, will be a pleasant and welcome sight. The lamps will be

put out at half past ten, and the average time for the lamps to be lighted during the season is to be five hours. The Committee entrusted with the carrying out of the work in this matter deserves the thanks of the ratepayers for the trouble they will doubtless have had.

The Lighting Committee next met in the National School on 8th November 1884 with Mr. Wrightson in the chair, and Mr. Ibison as secretary. A complaint had been received from Mr. Rowbotham about the oil lamps in Kellet Lane (presumably he meant Russell Road and Highfield Terrace). Mr. Wrightson said that he hoped the Gas Company would soon find it in their interest to lay gas mains there and in New Street.

The next ratepayers' meeting, held in the National School room on March 26 1885, was well attended, with Mr. T. Stephenson sen. in the chair who reported a slight loss in the Lighting Account, and that some people who had not yet paid up would have to be chased.

The next item concerned remuneration to the assistant overseer, Mr. H.I. Orr, for collecting the Lighting Rate. He explained that he had held the post for twenty one years, but had received only one pay rise, twelve years previously, although since then the Sanitary and Lighting Rates had both been given him to collect. His current salary was £25. Mr. Pool proposed that £5 be allowed, and Mr. Gaffney seconded the motion, but Mr. Stephenson jun. disagreed as no notice had been given that the matter would be brought forward. Mr. Orr replied indignantly that the matter of his salary had been raised two years ago, but left over for a year on Stephenson Jun.'s suggestion, and he had been shabbily treated by that gentleman. Hot words followed, with Stephenson declaring that Orr was a paid servant, and

ratepayers, having already had too much of his insolence, would no longer put up with it. Eventually order was brought about and an amendment that Orr's salary be raised by £10 was defeated, so that the original proposal for £5 was carried.

At the next Lighting Committee meeting, on April 6th 1885, it was reported that the lamps had been put into store at the Gas Works until the next season, and at the next meeting in June it was announced that there would be three more lamps in the coming winter, though only two actually appeared. By the time the lamps again came to be lit on 1st October 1885, Carnforth was provided with thirty lamps burning gas and six burning oil, and a main was soon to be laid in New Street. So Carnforth was no longer a place of darkness, but it had been a struggle.

(Incidentally, in February 1886, the Carnforth Steel Company announced that at its works, the installation of electric lighting, rather than gas, was almost complete. Unfortunately the Steel Works was to survive for only three more years.)

John Askew (46) Chemist, Market Street.
John Atkinson (42) Farmer, Hagg farm.
George M. Bleasdale (33) Crotchet Terrace. (Now Hope Tce?)
James Caley (48) Farmer, Galley Hall Farm.
Tom Clark (35) School Teacher, 5 Old Rd, (now North Rd).
Robert Clarkson (45) Builder and quarry owner, Laund House, Lancaster Road.
Robert Delhi Dugdale ,Printer and publisher of 'The Carnforth Weekly News', Market St
John Gaffney (37) Plumber, 2 Lancaster Road.
William Ibison (37) Builder & Railway Inspector, 'Fairview', Lancaster Road.
Dr. Edward Siddall Jackson (24) Robbin Hill, Market Street.
Thomas Jackson (30) Farmer, Hall Croft.

Nicholas Parkinson Johnson (30) Coal Merchant and Temperance Hotel, Market Street.
Thomas Lancaster (37) CIW book keeper, 7 Old Road (now North Road)
Henry Lee, (37) Grocer, 1, Lancaster Road
(Joseph?) Miller (59) Farmer & Sand & Gravel merchant, Plane Tree House, North Rd
Henry Inglis Orr (53) Secretary to The Carnforth Gas Co.; The Carnforth Water Co.; Carnforth & Dist. Permanent Building Soc.; Road Surveyor; Assistant Overseer etc. etc., Boswell Cottage, 17, Lancaster Rd.
Thomas Pool (52) Stonemason & Builder, Crag Bank Cottages.
Sir James Ramsden , Managing Director of the Furness Railway.
Wm. Roskell (64) Farmer Marsh Gate Farm.
Edward Rowbotham (38) Gravel Contractor, 6 Kellet Road.
John Ruddick (35) Farmer, Thwaite House.
Christopher Stephenson (59) Auctioneer & valuer, Market St.
Thomas Stephenson (Sen.) (62) Manure agent, 16 Lancaster Rd.
Thomas Stephenson (Jun.) (36) of Stephenson Bros. drapers etc. Market St.
Robert Stirzaker (32) Goods Agent, Carnforth House, North Rd.
John Wearing (27) Tailor and draper, Market Street.
E. Whinnerah (Edward Whinray?) (30) Ironmonger, Market St.
John Williams (30) Butcher, Market Street.
Jonathan Wood (69) Thwaite Gate Farm.
Stephen Wrightson (36) sub-Manager of Ironworks, 'Ash Trees', 17 Lancaster Road

Figure 2: A list of people involved in the debate about street lighting in Carnforth (ages are as given in the 1881 census**).**

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MEMORIES OF TWO WORLD WARS BY A CENTENARIAN RESIDENT OF SILVERDALE

Jane Parsons

The following are the memories of Mrs Dorothy Easterling, a resident at Cove House in Silverdale, as told to her daughter, Mrs Jane Parsons.

World War 1

I was born in 1913, just before the beginning of WW1, so naturally do not remember much of the war itself. We lived in Edinburgh, as my father, a civil engineer in the army, was working on the Firth of Forth defences. I was the youngest of four children, and we lived in one of the old-style flats in Edinburgh. I do remember my mother wrapping me in a blanket, and rushing out of the house, as there must have been a scare about a bombing raid, although Edinburgh seems a long way for WW1 aeroplanes to come. Perhaps it was an airship. I remember particularly the scent of Devon Violets, as my nose was pressed into my mother's breast; my father used to buy her that perfume.

I clearly remember the end of hostilities, as I was five by then. My older sister, Beryl, used to take me and some neighbours' children when she went into the centre of the city to pay the milk bill. We used to dawdle in Princes Street Gardens afterwards. We didn't speak to strange men, but on this occasion a man approached us, and asked if we could hear the bells, and if we knew what they were for. He said the war had ended, and to go home and tell our mothers as quickly as possible. My mother was in the middle of blacking the grate, with old newspapers spread on the floor. So great was the excitement that the papers were still there a couple of days later!

Between the wars

My older brother, Walter, who had been too young to serve during the war itself, was in the British Army on the Rhine after the War. My mother went out to visit him. So terrible was inflation in post-War Germany that you had to take a suitcase when you exchanged money, because you got so many marks for the pound. My mother had several one million mark notes. While my mother was away my sister and I stayed with my paternal grandmother, and aunt and family at Gravesend in Kent. I remember my mother telling us to eat as much fruit and vegetables as we could, as there was so little fresh produce in Edinburgh.

A lot of things happened in those years; I trained as a nurse and midwife, and one particular memory I have is standing on the roof of the Nurses' Home in Balham, where I trained, to watch the Crystal Palace burn down.

World War II

Declaration of war in 1939

Everybody heard this on the radio, as there was no TV in those days.

Family members at war

I had been a nurse and midwife, but had stopped when I got married in June 1939 (women had to give up their careers in those days when they got married). But they needed nurses when the war began, so I started again. I was on ambulances in London at first, but then we and our patients were transferred to a poorhouse in Guildford for safety from bombing. I remember lots of stairs and no lifts. There was a stretcher on every landing, and getting patients and dead bodies up and down stairs was very difficult.

My husband, Cyril, a telecommunications engineer in the Post Office (which ran all forms of communications in those days) had been in the Reserves before the War, and was called up immediately. He became an officer in the Royal Signals. What he did was very "hush hush", and we still don't really know what he did. After the British army was evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940, he was at "HQ" in Harpenden, maybe working on codes or intelligence. Before the D-Day landings he was involved with the "decoy" – masses of foil was dropped from aircraft over the English Channel, which, to German radar looked like invading ships and planes. At this point he was based in Dover. The Germans did not know that the invasion was actually happening further west, from Dorset and Devon to Western Normandy. Fortunately it was successful.

My husband was not the only member of the family in the forces. My sister, Beryl, was an officer in the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service, the women's branch of the army). Sometimes she was working on ack-ack (anti-aircraft) batteries on the south coast. Ron (my husband's brother) was also in the Royal Signals, but not as an officer. My second brother, Teddy, was an engineer in the army, and spent a lot of the war and just after in Palestine in the Middle East. He wrote letters from there to me and my family.

Bombing raids and protection

Bristol, where I was with my parents, once I became pregnant with my daughter Jane, was very badly bombed. The whole centre was pretty well destroyed because of the docks and aircraft factory. To protect themselves people had air raid shelters, or they used their cellars. My parents' house had a cellar, which they made comfortable. I remember once sharing breakfast down in the cellar with a newspaper boy and his "pal"

who were delivering when an air raid happened. We also had a table shelter (a metal framework in the living room which we used every night to sleep in, so as not to be always woken up by the air-raid sirens). Also everyone had a gas mask in case of gas attacks. There were special ones for babies, which enclosed the whole cot. Fortunately gas was not used in World War II.

There was a railway at the bottom of my parents' garden, and in the war an ack-ack gun was put on a wagon and ran up and down the line, making a noise.

Evacuees

Children and other vulnerable people were moved out of London and other big cities, and went to live with other families in the countryside. I remember the crowded trains and loudspeaker messages on the stations. One always makes me laugh: "Will all expectant mothers please show their pink forms"!!

Before D-Day, as no-one knew how successful it would be, Cyril sent me, and Jane, my mother and the dog, to the Scottish borders where my other brother, Walter, was now a policeman. This was in case the invasion was not successful, and the Germans invaded Britain, so we were a long way north. We stayed with a lady called Miss Brockey, who kept bees. I have a picture of my nephew, Tom, pushing Jane in a little trolley. He was 11 and she was 2. Fortunately the D-Day invasions were eventually successful, and we moved down south again.

Rationing

Food and clothing were rationed. We had ration books with coupons in them which allowed us so much every week, for example, 2 oz sugar, 2 oz butter. It was a struggle. People in the countryside were better off because they could get food from

the farms. I remember in Scotland people secretly leaving eggs for my brother, Walter. Everyone had to grow vegetables; my father did in the garden. "Dig for victory". People also used to exchange things. My mother-in-law liked sugar but not cheese, so we used to swop. I also remember making clothes from parachute silk and cutting down old dresses of mine and Beryl's to make clothes for Jane. The last rationing came off in 1953, 8 years after the end of the War.

That War was an exciting time, but a terrible time.

WARTON-WITH-LINDETH

Jenny Ager

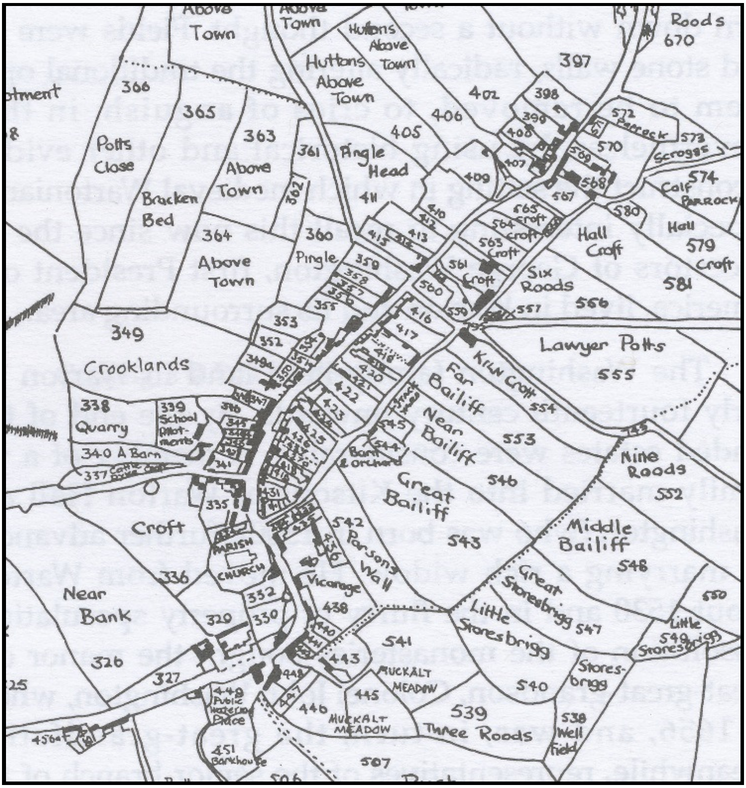
Pre-historic times.

Warton has long provided homes to people. On the rocky outcrop of Warton Crag, standing 163 metres (535ft) high to the North of the present village of Warton, caves provided shelter from Palaeolithic times, more than 10,000 years ago, and on the summit of the Crag people in the Iron Age built a hill fort, with ramparts and ditches, huts and tumuli. Objects made of horn, bone, bronze, iron and pottery have been found there. Other archaeological finds include a stone axe from Langdale in the Lake District as used by Neolithic farmers to clear land: the Keer Valley may have been used as a route to the sea for their export. Another find is an iron sword with a bronze hilt and sheath, probably made in Romano-British times.

Warton from the 13th to the 16th Centuries.

Warton Parish Church was in existence by 1208, but its dedication to St Oswald, a 7th century Christian King and Martyr and the circular shape of the churchyard, as seen below on the tithe map of 1846, indicates Anglo-Saxon origins. The oldest part of the present building is 14th century. St Oswald is also commemorated in Senset Well, off Borwick Lane.

The Domesday Book shows that Warton was part of the King's land in Yorkshire, it was one of twelve manors held by Thorfinnr, Lord of Austwick; they were worth 43 carucates to the geld. It became part of the Barony of Kendal, with castles in Kendal and Mourholme. The site of Mourholme castle was at Dock Acres, under what is now Pine Lake, the flooded gravel pit. In 1200 King John granted a charter to Gilbert FitzReinfred for a Wednesday market.



The Tithe Map of 1846

Later in the 13th century, the Lord of the Manor granted a borough charter to Warton, 44 burgage plots, each measuring one rood (a quarter acre), were laid out on either side of Main Street, from Crag Road to Coach Road and Senset Well Lane, the burgesses being freed from services to the Lord of the Manor. Their pattern can still be seen, with the access lanes between the houses going to Back Lane, the site of the common arable fields, where they each had 1 acre of land. Warton's

Manor Court was held in the Rectory, the great hall with service rooms and an upper floor, built in the late 13th or early 14th century by the rector, Marmaduke de Thweng's son. However Warton failed to prosper as a borough, it reached its peak in the 14th century and by the 16th century had ceased to be recognised as a town.

However the needs of local children and elderly people were not neglected and in 1594 a Free Grammar School, *Deo et bonis literis* (For God and good education) and the Hospital of Jesus, almshouses for six poor men, were founded by Matthew Hutton, the Charter being granted by Queen Elizabeth I. Matthew Hutton, born in 1529 in Priest Hutton, studied at Cambridge, where he distinguished himself by his ability in the theological disputations before Queen Elizabeth, and established himself as an able scholar and preacher. He became Bishop of Durham in 1594 and Archbishop of York in 1595. Part of the old school at Cross Bank is now a Brewery, while primary school children have enjoyed the facilities of a modern Archbishop Hutton School in Back Lane since 1991.

Warton from the 17th Century to the present.

There is a tradition of flying the Stars and Stripes flag of the USA on the 4th July every year to commemorate the first president of America, some of whose ancestors came from Warton and whose seal of two bars and three mullets, which can be seen on a stone in the church, may have inspired the design of the American flag.

People in Warton had been involved with farming, weaving, fishing, quarrying and limestone burning, with some mining on Warton Crag and some ship building. But the coming of the Lancaster Kendal canal, turnpike roads and railways, from the

1790s onwards, which bypassed Warton, led to a change in the balance of population and in employment opportunities. Carnforth overtook Warton as the township with the largest population in the decade between 1861 and 1871. Carnforth Ironworks opened in 1865 and Warton's population was swelled by iron workers living in houses built for them by the Company in Dudley, the part of Millhead on the Warton side of the river Keer: Bessemer Terrace, Albert Street and William Street.

Warton's resources of stone and gravel were used when England's first length of motorway, the Preston bye-pass, was built in 1958, and then when the Lancaster bye-pass was built in in 1960. The limestone quarries are now part of the Warton Crag Nature Reserve and the gravel pits are flooded and feature in the Pine Lake and other leisure village complexes. Limestone also features as the gnomon of the Sparrow Park sundial, on the corner of Sand Lane and Mill Lane, a Warton Village Society project to commemorate the millennium.

Lindeth.

The hamlet of Lindeth lies to the North West of the main part of Warton, and to the South of the township of Silverdale, Heald Brow, at 245ft (75 metres), is its highest point. Quicksand Pool, a stream which flows into Morecambe Bay from Leighton Moss, divides the moss land between Warton and Lindeth. Finds including a Bronze Age sword and Roman remains show evidence of early occupation of the area. A 13th century Baron of Kendal, Walter de Lindsay, took his name from the hamlet. Farming, fishing and salt making were probably the main occupations. There is also some evidence for ship building in the 17th century and it is likely that cattle drovers, using the cross bay route, came ashore at Cows' Mouth.

The fashion for sea bathing in the early 19th century reached Lindeth and the Britannia Hotel, now the Silverdale Hotel, provided bathing machines and one of Shore Cottages was the Bath House. Elizabeth Gaskell, the novelist spent holidays in the area and did some of her writing in Lindeth Tower, the summer house built in 1842 by Henry Paul Fleetwood, a banker from Preston, who also built Lindeth Lodge, now known as Wolf House.

Because of its separation from the main part of Warton, Lindeth seemed more closely allied with Silverdale and officially became part of the ecclesiastical parish of Silverdale in 1871 and part of the civil parish in 1935.

In 1801 the population of the township was 464 and fluctuated between 400 and 600 until the number exceeded 1000 in 1871 when there were 1035 people. By 1931 the population of Warton-with-Lindeth was 1694.

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DR. JOHN FINDLATER; CARNFORTH DOCTOR FROM 1951-1985

Sheila Jones

When I went to interview Dr. Findlater in December, 2012, I thought I was going to be interviewing a sort of TV or radio programme-doctor. He seemed quintessentially the rural GP, so much part of his practice that one could not imagine him in a world beyond it. This was entirely my fabrication, of course, because I had not met him until a few years previously, but nevertheless it was surprisingly far from the truth.

He had been born in North Dakota in 1925. His father was also a G.P. and had left Edinburgh with the family to try life in Ontario where his own mother was from and where there were relatives. But they had subsequently moved to North Dakota and then to a couple of places in Iowa, where John first went to school, in Dexter. The depression struck and, though people still needed the doctor, they could not pay. The doctor, in turn, could not pay the rent, and John told of a couple of moonlight flits, before they had a last go at New Albion, North Dakota, on the banks of the Mississippi, where they had previously lived and where people set them up with a couple of cows and some hens. However, life was not improving and the decision was made to return to Scotland, and they sailed from Montreal in 1934. John remembers opening the curtains and the porthole as they sailed up the Clyde, and the sight of a green hill, a lovely contrast to the brown and burnt land they had left behind.
hey were met and taken in by the maternal grandparents who kept a very religious household in Edinburgh. While John's father found work in England and was joined by his wife and their little girl, John and his younger brother were left behind for a year to go to school in Edinburgh and endure the strict

Methodist regime at home. John did well at school and when the family reunited, in Bingley, he began at the Grammar School there. He remembers, in about 1938, digging trenches along the banks of the River Ayre and preparing shelters for the school. When the war came, he was an ARP messenger, and in the Cadet Corps, learning the basics of infantry training.

However, the desire to be a family doctor like his father had come to John "in utero", as he says, and he applied to Edinburgh to study medicine, despite guilt at not taking part in the war. He graduated in 1947, and after short locums and the required hospital work, in Bradford, he was called up for National Service. There was military training, and training in tropical medicine, and then my "quintessential country doctor" was posted to the Canal Zone then Number 6 RAF hospital at Habbaniyah, 60 miles from Baghdad, where he looked after "lads with neural disease". After a few months, he seized the chance to move to the RAF hospital on Singapore Island, where he did dermatology, anaesthetics, and was Embarkation Officer, boarding the hospital ship to check patients in or out. He would have to go out with the pilot at crack of dawn and climb up the ship side. John's final posting was at Kuala Lumpur as Senior Medical Officer during the time of the Emergency. There was much bombing and strafing going on and the British Dakota planes would fly over the jungle to drop supplies into clearings for the troops. John had to deal with the aftermath when planes returned "all bombed up". When he finished his service in 1950, he was 25 years old. I wonder if future patients knew what a fund of knowledge and experience their young doctor was drawing on.

It was only three weeks later that he was engaged as a locum in Carnforth to Dr Edward Jackson. He took an instant liking to the

place because the people were so friendly and the countryside so attractive, but the BMA arranged several other locums for him before Dr Jackson wrote to him, inviting him to come as an assistant for the winter. It was in September of 1951, and John was on holiday with his wife Joyce (whom he had become "aware of" initially when handing out bottles of medicine to her at his father's surgery door!), when a call came to say that Dr. Jackson had been taken severely ill and could he come? By the time he arrived, the doctor had died. He was encouraged to apply, and succeeded to the practice the next month.

John was now 26 and was the single-handed General Practitioner for about 2800 patients. The practice ran from Carnforth to Brookhouse and Burton-in-Kendal, into Lancaster and Morecambe, with a branch surgery in Silverdale and a call-in centre at Halton. He was on "24/7", having to make his own night calls and with about fifteen house calls a day. He did domiciliary and midwifery and delivered babies at nursing homes in Melling and Lancaster and at the Queen Victoria Hospital in Morecambe. He was also the designated factory doctor, examining the girls at Morphy's Blouse Factory and attending the workers at the coconut matting factory at Holme. He was also the police surgeon and was called down to the railway yard if there were accidents (and locals will know there were some nasty ones).He had to deal with suicides. One was of an overseas student at Capernwray. It happened in the nearby chapel. He remembers driving the twisting roads in darkness, with someone in the front seat to guide him. All was tense silence until this man cried out, "Hallelujah! Thank God he died a Christian!"

Unsurprisingly, John says that all the work was too much for him, and he made the sensible decision to join with the other Carnforth practice that was affiliated to Dr Burns in Milnthorpe. (John's own account of the growth of this practice can be read in Mourholme Magazine, 2006-2007, issue 57, "Origins and Building of a Group Medical Practice in Carnforth, 1950-1985"). He was innovative and the very first doctor in this area with a radio car. He and the family were living on Warton Crag by this time, and they erected an eighty foot mast on top of the house. Joyce remembers being down in the kitchen at night to answer a telephone call and relaying it to John who was out in his car somewhere on another visit, in order to forestall him and save his coming home.

John also had a very active off-duty life. His articles were accepted by medical journals, and he was very active in Rotary. Rotary sponsored students to study abroad and John recalls interviewing a promising candidate named Cecil Parkinson. Through Rotary, John and Joyce hosted overseas students in their home and they were instrumental in the establishment of the Abbeyfield Home that used to be on Kellett Road in Carnforth. He was an active member of the BMA and Chair of the Lancaster Division for some time. He also belonged to the Lancaster Medical Book Club which had been founded in 1823 "to try and help doctors get together and educate themselves". This had regular meetings and lectures, and is still in existence. After his retirement he took an Open University History degree, and then became involved in Mourholme, working on the books and writing for the magazine.

What a joy to have the privilege to interview a man who lived life with such zest! There is no doubt that the time he lived, and his calling, made many demands on Dr. Findlater and his family;

but they had the character to turn demands into opportunities and there can be little doubt that his many patients as well as the community in general, benefitted from the circumstance that made this his place of practice.

MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S SUMMER OUTINGS 2014

Awena Carter

Two trips have been arranged for this summer, a day trip and an evening walk.

The Ribble Valley Magical History Tour

Wednesday 4th June 2014.
Pick up in Silverdale at 9.15am, Carnforth following.

The tour will include a guided tour of Ribchester Roman Camp and Museum, with optional coffee stop at the local café, or a short walk to the Stydd, a nearby notable chapel.

We will then travel to Clitheroe Castle, where a hot lunch, with pre-selected choices from vegetarian and other options, may be had at the Atrium Café, (tour price includes main dish only). Following this there will be a tour by a costumed guide of Clitheroe Castle with time to look at the Art Gallery, museum and shop.

We will return to Silverdale by 6pm and the cost, depending on numbers, will be will be £23.50.

Evening Walk around Warton

Wednesday 25th June

The purpose of this evening walk is to correlate photographs of buildings in Warton. Meet at the car park of the George Washington at 6.30

REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS
Clive Holden

27th November 2013: Spinning a golden yarn (Stephen Simpson's Gold Thread Works).

Linda Barton gave a fluent account of the history of Stephen Simpson's works from the earliest days at Chorley and thence to Preston in 1829. The firm was founded by Isaac Simpson, son of a watch and clock maker, a man of inventive talent who designed much of the machinery used in the works. By 1863 there was a workforce of 63, almost entirely female, which by 1929 had grown to 231. There were many secret processes in the making of gold thread, and many of the female employees were long serving. Martha Riley, for instance, started in 1836 and worked for many years, while Isabella Boast, who started work at the age of 11 in 1865, was employed for 58 years.

There were many different departments in the works at Avenham Road, each one being a closed shop so that the processes remained secret. The processes, which included drawing wire, flatting, spinning, weaving, cording, crimping and purling, were explained in detail. Not everything was done at the works, as some was done by outworkers, who would be paid only if their work was considered acceptable.

The main customers were the armed forces, the GPO and, Freemasons. During the Second World War German military insignia were produced for the use of agents in occupied territory. Towards the end of the last century competition from other countries such as India, and the adoption of fibre optics by the Post Office eventually led to the closure of the works, though DMC is still in business on a smaller scale

12th December 2013: Social evening.

Simon Williams set the ball rolling with his account of the nineteenth century attempt at land reclamation in the Leighton Moss area, with the name Henry Walduck figuring prominently. As we have come to expect from Simon, not all came to a happy ending.

Brian Jones came next with his illustrated talk about the ancient roadway between Beetham and Warton, now partially disappeared under road widenings, in other places clearly defined as it passes through fields, while elsewhere its route is a matter of conjecture.

Having already been given plenty to arouse our interest, we enjoyed mince pies and drinks at the midway interval, before carrying on with the second part of the evening's entertainment.

Andy Denwood was the next to contribute with a talk which partly complemented that of Simon's earlier in the evening, but was more concerned with solving the mystery of the chimney at Crag Foot. Was it to do with the land reclamation or Mr. Walduck's paint company? The verdict seemed to be that there had been more than one chimney on the site, and that therefore in a sense both theories were justified.

Last, but not least, we heard about Hartley's quarries at Carnforth from **Sheila Jones**. Far from reciting a dry-as-dust history, Sheila had interviewed former employees and, with a fund of anecdotes, found that many of them looked back on their working days with affection, and regarded their employers as caring and benevolent.

22nd January 2014: What is that?

Seeing familiar objects in the landscape is one thing, but knowing what they are and why they are there is quite another, and that is why **Geoff Wood** gave us answers to the frequently asked question: "What is that?"

Starting at Silverdale, we were told about the Pepperpot (or Pepperbox as it was first known) erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee; the 'spite' wall put up by an unfriendly neighbour; the embankment which is all that remains of Mr Walduck's land reclamation scheme; the railway sleepers which provided target practice for the RAF; the belvedere at Lindeth Tower (was 'Cranford' really a corruption of Carnforth?); the motto 'Homo homini lupus' at Wolf House; and the windows at Bank House farm.

Moving further afield to Kirkby Lonsdale we learned that the centre piece of the market scene representing 18th century Launceston for the television version of 'Jamaica Inn' is an early 20th century memorial; that Devil's Bridge allegedly owes its existence to an old lady's dog; and that some of the water flowing by gravity along the aqueduct at Crook o'Lune supplies a fountain in Albert Square, Manchester.

Back nearer to home again we discovered that the seemingly ancient shrine to St. Lioba at Beetham (easily missed if you don't know where it is), was until 1982 a privy; we were given several facts about ship building at Arnside and Sandside (how many people notice the bell by the chimney at 'The Albion'?), and that the Elba monument dedicated to William Pitt near Burneside probably lost its significance after Napoleon's escape.

Finally, after looking at the memorial to John Wilkinson at Lindale, we were told how 'Iron Mad Jack' and his father Isaac influenced the iron trade, not least by improving on the faulty cannons produced by the Carron Company, and of the connection the 'Father of the Iron Trade' had with Boulton and Watt, and with Joseph Priestley, who was his brother in law. Far from being a dull catalogue of events, there was no shortage of amusing anecdotes for us to enjoy.

26th February 2014: Lancaster and Lunesdale Workhouses.

Dr. Andy Gritt began his talk by referring to the Poor Relief Act of 1601, which made parishes responsible for looking after their poor. Under the 1834 Act parishes were grouped into unions under the authority of elected Poor Law Guardians, who set the rates to be paid by the ratepayers for relief of the poor. Central authority, though it was somewhat limited, lay in London with the highly remunerated Poor Law Commissioners: Sir Thomas Frankland Lewis; John George Shaw Lefevre; and Sir George Nicholls; aided by a number of highly salaried officials. One of the aims of the 1834 Act was to reduce the burden placed on ratepayers by relief of the poor. No longer would able-bodied men be able to claim outdoor relief, they would have to work for it in the workhouse. Conditions were harsh, rules were strict, and there was segregation of the sexes and children.

At one time there had been 450 townships with responsibility for their poor in Lancashire, but in 1834 the number was reduced to about 20 parishes with workhouses which were not always of easy access for those in need. The Poor Laws were not universally popular, and towns such as Blackburn, Bolton and Stockport found devious ways of getting round them. Later in

the nineteenth century conditions improved and there was genuine care, but entry into the workhouse was looked upon by many as a last resort. It was interesting to note that men tended to enter the workhouse in their later, feebler years, and fared better if married, whereas women of much younger age went in especially for medical care in childbirth. The bodies of those who died in the workhouse could be claimed by their families, the alternatives being a pauper's funeral or sale to a hospital for dissection by students.

The workhouse at Lancaster was built in 1837 and existed, with various changes in its status from 1930 until closure in 1962. It has since been demolished and is the site of more recent buildings for Lancaster Royal Grammar School. The Lunesdale Union was not formed until 1869, and consisted of twenty two parishes including Borwick and the two Kellets. Some of the workhouses, such as those at Caton and Halton, found further use after closure, and are now desirable residences.

For those interested in workhouses, there is information to be found in record offices, and the Workhouse Museum at Ripon can be recommended.

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NOTES AND QUERIES

CARNFORTH SCHOOLS – EXAMPLE WORTHY OF IMITATION.

Clive Holden

The following is an extract from the Lancaster Guardian of 1st February 1862:

'We are glad to find the inhabitants of this rapidly improving village are evincing great interest in providing the means of instruction for the rising generation. We have St. James's schools, under the management of the newly appointed teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Orr; Sap-tree House seminary for young ladies, conducted by Miss Pickford; St. Anne's schools, under the able management of Mrs Tomlinson; and the Wesleyan school, under the superintendence of our old friend and able teacher, Mr. Richard Haslam.'

Presumably most of these schools were private premises, and it would be interesting to know just where they were. Does the 1861 census give any clue? The Mr. Orr in question was probably Henry Inglis Orr, who in 1866 fell foul of the Rev. Ismay Barnes (see 'Warton Patrish 1850 – 1900 p.146), and who seems to have had a finger in many Carnforth pies. Miss Pickford is of course well known for her school at The Haws; was Sap-tree House an earlier name for The Haws, or was it a different place? Also of interest is the use of the plural in St. James's schools and St. Anne's schools, though this may merely indicate that different age groups were involved.

Can anyone provide further information?

TOWNSHIPS
Jenny Ager

Someone recently asked for an explanation about the term 'township'. What is it and why does the Mourholme Local History Society use the term in describing the villages in our area?

A useful website

The following explanation of the nature of a township is taken from the website "A Vision of Britain through Time" www.visionofbritian.org.uk. This is described as "a local history web site for a wide audience of life-long learners." It is funded through the National Lottery and through JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), a charity which champions the use of digital technologies in UK education and research.

In the web site one can search for places and find out a great deal of information about them. The system uses different administrative units accurately to describe the place in question, rather than a vague area. The administrative units are described as having "corporate bodies whose creation, abolition, naming and boundaries were the outcomes of legal processes."

The different units are attached to a particular geographical level, there are 13 levels:

1. World
2. Continent
3. Sub-Continent
4. State
5. Nation

6. Region
7. County
8. Higher-level District
9. Middle-level District
10. Lower-level District
11. Parish
12. sub-Parish
13. sub sub-Parish

For example England, Wales and Scotland are Nations, a township is a level 11 unit, Parish level. Over time units and boundaries have changed depending on different administrative priorities. For instance whether the Poor Rate was high and areas needed to be organized in Poor Law Unions or whether there were epidemics of cholera and Sanitary districts should be set up.

An explanation of the term 'township'

Before the Norman Conquest in 1066, church matters were organised within parishes, groups of villages or hamlets and the land around them. Civil matters were dealt with within vills, townships and Manors. Townships could have been part of various groupings of population a particular manor, parish, part of a hundred, a tun (small town) or village. After the Norman Conquest a township or vill was considered to be a division of an original parish, that had its own church and had civil functions, including maintaining the poor. Townships in the North of England were regarded as divisions subordinate to parishes, in contrast to those in the South of the country.

The feudal system declined during the Hundred Years War between England and France (1337-1453) and the vills, townships and Manors ceased their administrative role. The

ecclesiastical parish gradually became responsible for both ecclesiastical and civil duties, particularly after the dissolution of the monasteries (1536-1541), with Collectors and Overseers of the Poor being appointed and tax being raised from parishioners for funding Elizabethan Poor Laws of 1563 and 1597. By the mid 19th century townships had been taken over by adjoining areas or given their own separate status as parishes. Most of the civil functions of parishes and townships were gradually taken over by urban authorities although parish councils and parish meetings still have an important role in their communities.

The Mourholme area is based on the ancient parish of Warton, which had the mother church, the townships within that area were Borwick, Carnforth, Priest Hutton, Silverdale, Warton-with-Lindeth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne. Silverdale had its own chapel, with a curate. During the 19th century, the different villages became parishes in their own right, with their own churches and responsibility for civil matters.