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QUAKER'S STANG

Simon Williams

I have solved a mystery. Local historians have disagreed over whether Quaker's Stang is the name given to a sea defence across the Warton Marsh, or the description of a plot of land, or just a corruption of the name of the waterway draining the moss – Quicksand Pool. Having found an estate plan of 1829 in the County Archives I am now satisfied that it is none of these. It is a bridge.

Quaker's Stang is just one of those curious place names that abound in our parish and give the newcomer and the visitor a smile. Others with a similar earthy antiquity are Thrang Brow, Stankelt, Dogslack and Fleagarth.[1] But Quaker's Stang has a special claim to quirkiness. Until now, we have not even known precisely where or what it is.

Silverdale and Lindeth are separated from Warton Crag by a broad area of land at or slightly above sea level. The north eastern section today makes up RSPB's Leighton Moss reserve. The south western section, Warton Marsh, stretches to the sea. And, at the highest tides, is largely under the sea – at least up to the first of the embankments which cross it. Local walkers, in Silverdale, will know well the footpath, from Hollins Lane, near the Wolf House and Gibraltar Farm, which heads south to cross pastures to reach the National Trust's Heald Brow, and then

[1] For more on these and other local place names, David Peter's article *Silverdale Place Names*, Mourholme Local History Society's Magazine, Summer 1983, can be found at http://www.mourholme.co.uk/users/UserFiles/File/1980-1985/MMofLH004.pdf

Figure 1. The clear signpost to Quaker's Stang

heads steeply down the rocky and muddy path to the foot of the limestone cliffs. From here a fingerpost helpfully directs Jenny Brown's Point to the right, Fleagarth Wood to the left, and straight on, across a stile onto a sea defence embankment, to Quaker's Stang.

Today the land this embankment crosses is kept relatively dry through the drainage of Leighton Moss into a largely canalised rivulet known as Quicksand Pool[2], and by the embankments of the railway and road which cross it. But until the early 19th

[2] Quicksand Pool is not the only instance of Pool describing a small river; Rusland Pool drains into the Leven near Haverthwaite.

Century the whole area between Jenny Brown's Point and Warton Crag would have been a tidal inlet.[3]

In fact it could be a very dangerous land to cross. In the late seventeenth century Silverdale inhabitants campaigned for their own curate and Chapel of Ease so that they did not have to make the difficult and dangerous journey to Warton for their Sunday services. The Bishop of Chester sent a man to examine the case. In 1692 he reported of the journey '… in the midst lies a deep mosse where I thought we must have left our horses and were once in despair of making our way till Mr Lawson's clerk broke down a hedge, & conducted us through men's grounds, who might have indicted us for a trespasse.'[4]

The first embankment was built of earth and stone by Leighton Hall in the late eighteenth century, and stretched from Slackwood Farm (near the railway level crossing) to Moss House Farm (at Crag Foot – by the roadside chimney).[5] In the middle of this was a sluice gate – a sort of valve, which closed when the sea water came that high with tides, but opened to let waters escape from the moss to the sea. A short section of this embankment remains and is visible at the Slackwood end; the rest was removed in 1959.

A later embankment was built nearer to the sea – and is now known as Quaker's Stang. Work was carried out in 1840, and 29

[3] Andy Denwood's book, Leighton Moss, Ice Age to Present Day, describes this particularly well.
[4] The case is described in full in issue 3 of the Mourholme Magazine at http://www.mourholme.co.uk/users/UserFiles/File/1980-1985/MMofLH003.pdf
[5] Details taken from David Peter's *In and Around Silverdale*, (1984) p71

local men were engaged by Richard Gillow of Leighton Hall.[6] But this was not the original construction phase. In the Lancashire County Records Office, Preston, an 1829 estate map can be found.[7] This sheds a new fascinating light upon Quaker's Stang. The extract in Figure 2 shows the southern end of the embankment, as it reaches Quicksand Pool and curves up towards the bridge (and, today, the railway bridge that spans the road track to the nearby Leighton Moss carpark for their Eric Morecambe bird hides).

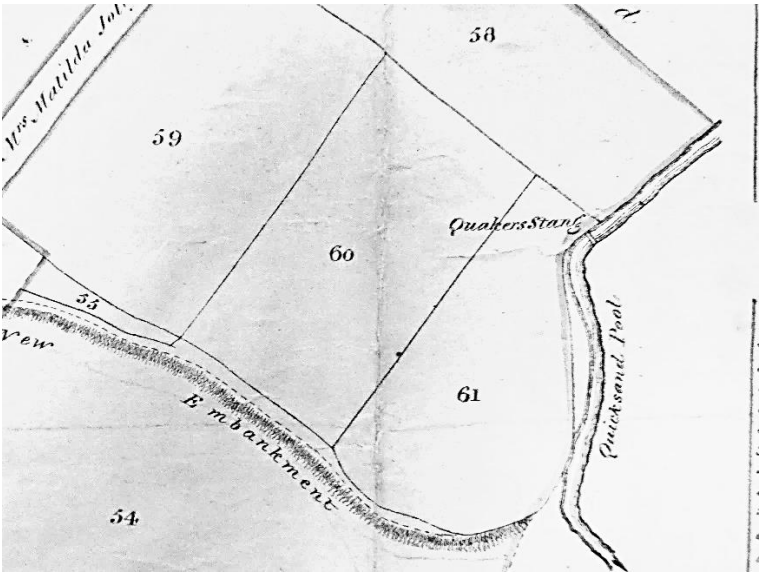

Figure 2. An extract from the Estate Map of Lindeth 1829

Firstly, the banking is named 'New Embankment' – pushing back its origins by over 10 years at least. And the name Quakers

[6] Andy Denwood's *Leighton Moss*, p48
[7] Catalogue reference DDX 291/ 86

Stang is clearly attached to the little bridge across the rivulet Quicksand Pool. Today a sluice and stone bridge (see Figure 3) still exist at this point – feasibly including the remains of the original within it. In the background of Figure 3 can be seen the remains of a concrete building that once housed a steam driven water pumping engine, used to drain the moss more effectively.

Figure 3. Modern bridge – on the site of Quaker's Stang

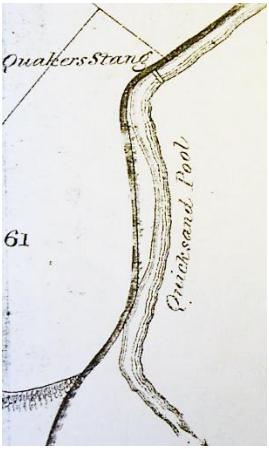

Figure 4. Detail from the 1829 Estate Map of Lindeth

So, who were the Quakers that gave their name to this feature, and what is a Stang? The short answer is that we don't know, and this mystery is likely to remain. But some speculations can be made.

Stang is an old version of Stone – perhaps this is just a description of an earlier stone slab that crossed the waterway. But Stang is also an old English word denoting a rod, a pole, a stake. Perhaps the early bridge predates all embankments, and a stake marked the crossing point for travellers picking their way across the difficult saltmarsh terrain: a point to aim for.

Members of the Society of Friends, popularly known as Quakers, can be found in both directions – at Yealand of course, but also in Silverdale/Lindeth, where a prominent Quaker family, the Waithmans, lived near to Gibraltar farm.[8] Before today's road was built, did Quakers build a stone bridge and signpost to enable a safer journey, for Silverdale and Lindeth Friends, to the Meeting House at Yealand?

[8] Waithman's House is a contender for Silverdale's oldest house. David Peter in *In and Around Silverdale* (1984), notes that the date over the door is 1739, but parts of an earlier building can be discerned. The Waithman family were prominent Quakers in both Lindeth and Yealand.

THE YEALAND FRIENDS' MEETING SCHOOL: ITS HISTORY IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES

Sheila Jones
From research undertaken by Joan Clarke[1]

In a previous magazine I wrote about the Yealand Friends' School in its later years, particularly on aspects of the pupils' experiences there. This article will fill in some of the background to the early years, and then focus on teachers and their experiences.

The Early Years

There is a generally accepted date for the formal beginning of the school as 1709 when Thomas Withers, a member of the Yealand and Kellet Meeting, left £6 annually charged on his Over Kellet estate towards the maintenance of a schoolmaster at Yealand. This was not a large amount; a hundred years earlier Archbishop Hutton had left £20 p.a. for a master at his school in Warton. However, Dr Clarke suggests that the legacy and the terms of the will had a hold over the community, making it feel incumbent on the Friends to keep the school going even when this was financially difficult to do. Pressure could have been felt because of the very high reputation of Robert Withers, Thomas's father who was one of the earliest Friends and an associate of George Fox and of Margaret Fell.

However, whatever the effect of the Withers' legacy, it did not give birth to the school. There is ample evidence that the school

[1] *A fuller article than this publication has room for, by Sheila Jones and based on Joan Clarke's notes, may be found on the MLHS website at* **www.mourholme.co.uk**

was operating in the late 17th century[2], and by 1710 the Friends' community was asked if it were 'willing to continue what it subscribed to the school' as though the contributions were of some long standing.

Withers' legacy was meant for the education of poor children in the parish. It was hoped that a schoolmaster would develop a reputation that would encourage richer families to pay school fees to him directly, so the parish would only have responsibility for those unable to pay. This did not consistently happen at Yealand, because there were always financial worries. John Jenkinson[3], a schoolmaster there, advertised as far away as Newcastle in the late 18th century (Figure 1), but we do not know with what result. In the mid-nineteenth century we have record of the schoolmasters' ages and they were all young, leaving when they married. This suggests the salary was insufficient to support a family man. It might be noted, parenthetically, that even the Royal Grammar School in Lancaster closed for periods in the 18th century for financial reasons.

A topic still under discussion relating to the early years is the housing of the school. There is a notion that a school was held for a time in a room at Backhouse Farm at Hilderstone, but once the Meeting House was built in 1692, it probably was held there. The earliest definite record is not until 1737 when a fire which consumed the meeting house was 'generally concluded to be occasioned by that fire in the School kept in the Lower End.'

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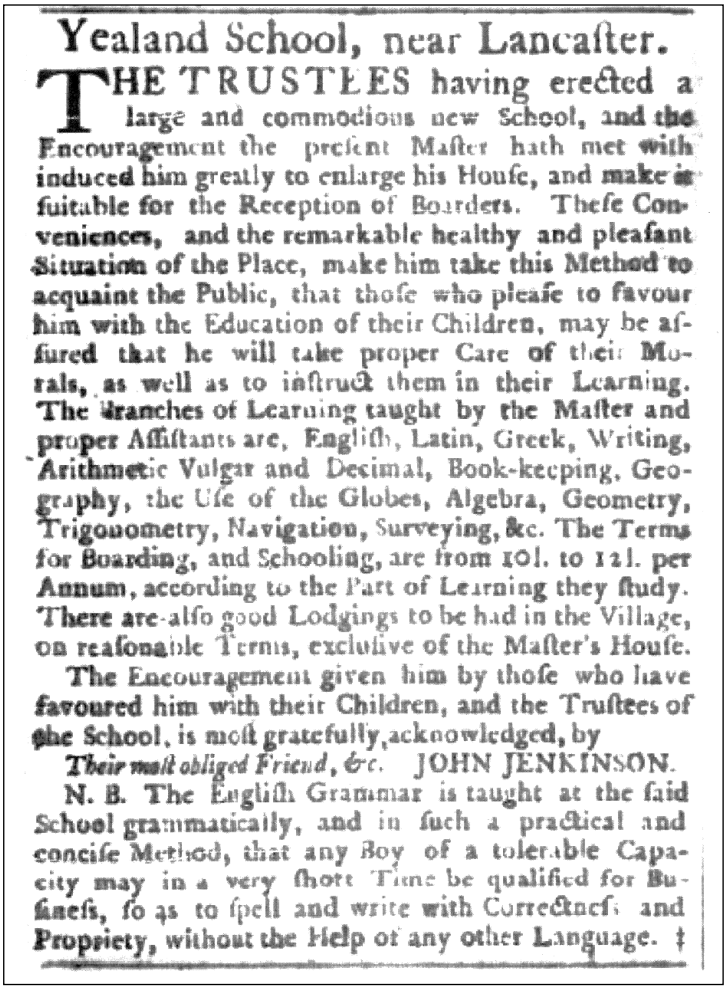
[2] *See for example the date referring to Thomas Armistead on page 11.*
[3] *See Simon Williams' article JOHN JENKINSON OF YEALAND in The Mourholme Magazine of Local History 2016 , No.1, issue 69*



Yealand School, near Lancaſter.

THE TRUSTEES having erected a large and commodious new School, and the Encouragement the preſent Maſter hath met with induced him greatly to enlarge his Houſe, and make it ſuitable for the Reception of Boarders. Theſe Conveniences, and the remarkable healthy and pleaſant Situation of the Place, make him take this Method to acquaint the Public, that thoſe who pleaſe to favour him with the Education of their Children, may be aſſured that he will take proper Care of their Morals, as well as to inſtruct them in their Learning. The Branches of Learning taught by the Maſter and proper Aſſiſtants are, Engliſh, Latin, Greek, Writing, Arithmetic Vulgar and Decimal, Book-keeping, Geography, the Uſe of the Globes, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Navigation, Surveying, &c. The Terms for Boarding, and Schooling, are from 10l. to 12l. per Annum, according to the Part of Learning they ſtudy. There are alſo good Lodgings to be had in the Village, on reaſonable Terms, excluſive of the Maſter's Houſe.

The Encouragement given him by thoſe who have favoured him with their Children, and the Truſtees of the School, is moſt gratefully acknowledged, by

Their moſt obliged Friend, &c. JOHN JENKINSON.

N. B. The Engliſh Grammar is taught at the ſaid School grammatically, and in ſuch a practical and conciſe Method, that any Boy of a tolerable Capacity may in a very ſhort Time be qualified for Buſineſs, ſo as to ſpell and write with Correctneſs and Propriety, without the Help of any other Language.

Figure 1. Advertisement placed in the *Newcastle Chronicle*, by John Jenkinson, Saturday, 26th April, 1766.

About thirty years later the enterprising John Jenkinson paid £30 to convert a house the Friends had bought, into a school, but nevertheless, in 1803 there is a list for 'the cost of sundries for making the Meeting House fit for a schoolroom'. By 1862 there

was a defined schoolhouse which was insured separately from the Meeting House

Figure 2. Yealand Old School, after a woodcut by Elizabeth Brockbank

The teachers and their experiences

What sort of teacher could this school attract? There was an immediate stumbling block in that the teacher in a dissenting school needed a license from the Diocesan Bishop; John Yeats at Lancaster Friends' School in 1701-5 was imprisoned for not having obtained one. A second issue might be the expectations in a Friends' school. One would-be teacher, John Kelsall, felt he could not make the grade. His diary notes, *'about the latter end of the second month of 1700 I went to Yelland (about 7 miles from Lancaster) to have taught School there a while on Tryall but understanding not the right method of Friends Schools, (having not been at any) I came back from thence'.*

We have the names of some early teachers. Warton Parish Register refers, in June,1697, to 'a Quaker Schoolmaster at Yealand Conyers whose name is Thomas Armistead'. The first to be mentioned in the Yealand Preparatory Meeting minutes is Edwd. Garrett in 1709, and Ann Hadwen had already succeeded him by 1712. Notes from Lancaster Meeting suggest that during an interregnum at the Friends' School there, pupils came to Yealand during Garrett and Hadwen's time. A brief note on Nathan Robinson (master, 1719-1729) says that he charged pupils 2/6 per quarter for teaching Latin. The contract with Michael Jenkinson (father of John Jenkinson), who succeeded Robinson, shows how the education of children from poor families was paid for: in 1732 it states that he is to have £9 per annum for '*teaching all poore children free belonging to this Meeting',* all others to pay per Quarter '*as has been usual in years past'.* Then, according to an agreement in 1733, Michael Jenkinson was to have, in addition, the £6 per annum under the terms of Thomas Withers' Will, as well as the interest from four other legacies

Any detail about the teachers, and even then obliquely, only starts to appear after they begin writing log books as a government requirement in the 1860s. Orlando Pearce (1863-9) gives a sense of his values and teaching style in his notes. Corporal punishment for boys was the norm in his day but he wrote of trying to reduce it by the positive reinforcement of good behaviour.

One teacher task was the training of monitors to try to bring them to the level of pupil teachers, ready to apply for teacher training. Pearce advised one monitor to *'to use concrete numbers in arithmetic as a help to the more backward children.'* Pierce was less tolerant of these monitors than of his class pupils. He wrote

of them often, and rarely with approval. They were idle and 'not quick enough', they failed to detect idlers and talkers, were inefficient, even insolent. All his tenderness and care seemed reserved for the class. In one note he is seen to be laying out for himself the method he felt he should use in applying phonetics to the teaching of reading. He also gave the pupils the opportunity of witnessing an eclipse and explained how it was brought about. When they littered the classroom with leaves on Oak Apple Day, he explained what the day meant, as well as making them tidy up.

There is some detail about monitors throughout the log notes. One monitor, herself, talked too much. However, George Spear, the next teacher in post after Orlando Pearce, wrote of another monitor glowingly: '*Elizabeth Thistleton does her home lesson neatly and correctly & has been held up as an example to her class.'* If a monitor wanted to go on to being a pupil teacher he or she was bound, as happened with Isaac Burrow in August, 1871. *'The Indenture or agreement [was] signed by Isaac Burrow, Richard Burrow, Roger Preston and Edward Payne Rothwell all in the presence of George Spear*.'

The staffing at Yealand, was very volatile. Agnes Wearing, the sewing mistress, and a master, George French, appointed in 1877, were both there a long time but both had a great deal of illness, and then also the role of assistant master seems to have been quite hard to fill. There were dramas; such as in 1892 when a Mr Fletcher who had been taken on to fill in during one of French's illnesses had to be taken home because 'he lost his reason'.

George French's long tenure, until 1895, was not altogether happy. What we know about him relates largely to the conditions

of his employment. In 1886 he wrote to the school committee pointing out that he had been paying out of his own pocket for books and material for the school, that his income was falling because of the lowering of the school grant (this would have been because of School Inspectors' dissatisfactions: the report of 1885 states that '*the staff should be at once strengthened so as to meet the requirements of Article 83'*), and lastly that he was finding it difficult to manage a salary paid annually in one lump sum.

The first grievance was redressed seven years later when the committee purchased from him all materials and books he had bought that were in use in the school. Relationships, though, continued to be sour, as one can deduce, by the fact that in 1895, '*On 4th mo. 1st, two of the managers visited the School tested the Register and were hissed on leaving by the master, G. French, who also asked the children to hiss. Signed John Escolme'.* This was the period when the inspectors, although acknowledging the Master's failures, also blamed the Managers. The Managers should have been at a higher level of responsibility in the school hierarchy but the inspectors in fact castigated them for 'the surrender of all authority'.

The last entries Dr Clarke records were for the following year when George French was dismissed. The committee still had not paid him for blinds or coals used in school. He accepted a position in Northamptonshire and left, 'Blinds taken'.

One hopes they fitted somewhere in his new home.

A FOUNDLING ARCHBISHOP?

Andy Denwood

Matthew Hutton (1529-1606) is surely the most significant national figure ever to emerge from the village of Priest Hutton. He left Lancashire to become one of the leading Cambridge scholars and preachers of his day and was eventually appointed Archbishop of York in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

Figure 1. Archbishop Hutton
By Francis Perry
(Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

But controversy still surrounds the details of his birth, as I discovered when, last autumn, I gave a talk at Priest Hutton about the new edition of John Lucas's eighteenth century history of Warton. The question is this: was he or was he not a foundling?

John Lucas, writing nearly 200 years after Hutton's birth, is adamant and indignant on the subject.

'The most reverend Father Dr Matthew (son of Mathew) Hutton, was not a foundling child, as some have falsely published, but was born… of honest parents in this town.'

People who live in the village today, however, still retell the foundling story which has clearly been passed down the generations. One gentleman who attended the Lucas talk shared the version he had learned from his headmistress at the village school in the 1970s. She told her pupils that the future Archbishop had been abandoned as a baby on the doorstep at Beech House, a farm on the edge of the village.

Mourholme member and Priest Hutton resident Keith Brady, meanwhile, told me the tale he heard when his family moved into the village in the 1980s. This suggested that the baby had been found by the side of Janet's (or Jenet's) Well, about 100 yards from Beech House. To underline the point, he armed himself with a sturdy pair of garden loppers and led me to an unpromising stretch of village hedgerow where he clipped back the foliage to reveal an old well-head (Figure 2).

Other versions of the story suggest the baby had been named 'Hutton' after the village where he was abandoned, and 'Matthew' because he was found on St Matthew's Day (September 21). Those are the stories. What is the truth? I cannot honestly answer this question. But we could examine some evidence. As ever, the best place to start when exploring any issue of local history in these parts is the archive of this very magazine. On the Mourholme website, tap the name 'Matthew

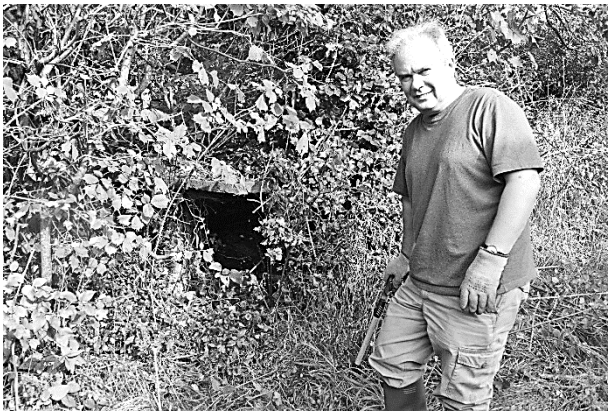


Figure 2. Mourholme member and Priest Hutton resident Keith Brady at Jenet's Well

Hutton' into the search engine and you discover two articles written in the 1990s by the late Joan Clarke of Yealand Redmayne. A former Secretary of the Mourholme Society, Joan was a diligent researcher[1] and a very fine writer. Her articles give plenty of detail about the Archbishop's life and works. But first she addresses the claim that he was a foundling child.

'There is no evidence that this story was current in Hutton's lifetime,' she writes, adding that a certain Dr Ducarel, who completed a biography of the Archbishop in 1756, blamed the invention of the story on another historian - someone called Mr Torr. According to Ducarel, this Mr Torr wrote that it was *'the common tradition'* in Warton Parish that Hutton was a foundling.

[1] *For an example of this, see Sheila Jones article on p 7*

Joan Clarke says the strongest reason for rejecting Mr Torr's version is that Matthew Hutton was not a lone foundling: he was known to have brothers and other relatives in Warton. One brother, Robert, became the Rector of Houghton-le-Springs and Archbishop Hutton later left him £20 in his will. So one might reasonably form the view that the Archbishop probably wasn't a foundling. He had extensive family in Warton; there are no known contemporary accounts of his foundling status; and the suggestion that he was abandoned at birth allegedly stems from a single, erroneous statement in one written history.

Figure 3. Dr Andrew Ducarel.
Painted by Andrea Soldi, engraved by Francis Perry.
(Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

But these days the wonders of the internet mean that we can all dive into primary historical sources at the click of a mouse. One can, for example, quite easily read Dr Ducarel's account at first

hand - just copy and paste the address at the end of this article into your computer (Note 1). But before you do this, here is a bit more background on that gentleman.

Dr Andrew Coltée Ducarel (1713-1785), was an English antiquary, librarian, and archivist. He worked at Lambeth Palace for the Archbishop of Canterbury. And, strange to relate, that Archbishop was also called Matthew Hutton: a direct descendant of our own Matthew Hutton. This later Hutton commissioned Ducarel to write his ancestor's biography. It is easy to imagine that he might have been keen to promote a favourable impression of his distinguished forbear, and especially to erase the suggestion of illegitimacy. Dr Ducarel is certainly emphatic on the subject.

'This story is as false as it is injurious,' he declares. *'We do not find that it was ever mentioned by any contemporaries, as it undoubtedly would, at a time when feuds and parties ran high; when both Papists and Puritans were inveterate against the Protestant clergy and bishops, and would have let nothing slip that could any way blacken and expose them, or destroy their credit and influence with the nation. But no such thing appears in their swarms of libels. It was, therefore, reserved for the invention of J. Torr, a hasty and injudicious collector, who raked together everything that came in his way, and composed in such a hurry, consequently with so little thought and reflection, that he transcribed 1250 columns ... in less than a year and a half.'*

Ducarel's point that Archbishop Hutton's contemporary critics would have seized on any suggestions of his illegitimacy is surely a powerful argument against the story. Nonetheless, he clearly also feels obliged to lash out at 'J. Torr' for being a

sloppy historian who worked far too quickly to get his facts right. This made me wonder about 'Mr Torr'.

James Torre (1649–1699) came from Lincolnshire. He graduated from Magdalene College, Cambridge and entered the Inner Temple as a student lawyer. He did not become a barrister, but instead studied the ecclesiastical antiquities of Yorkshire. '*The former he followed with that prodigious application and exactness as perhaps never any man before or since could equal'*, wrote his fellow historian of York, the antiquary and surgeon Francis Drake, in 1736.

Mr Torre, I notice, was also friendly with the distinguished Leeds historian, Ralph Thoresby, who was later to become a mentor to Warton's own historian, John Lucas. Everyone, except Dr Ducarel it seems, judged James Torre to have been a meticulous and prodigiously hard working researcher and historian.

Contemporary accounts of Dr Ducarel are, in contrast, markedly less generous. The lexicographer Francis Grose described him as '*a very weak man, and ignorant, though he was ambitious of being thought learned.'* Grose also said he had a poor command of Latin and was drunk on a daily basis. The writer and politician Horace Walpole found Ducarel *'a poor creature'* who was reluctant to lend him works from the Lambeth Palace library unless he agreed to buy antiquities from him at an exorbitant price.

None of this, of course, proves that Ducarel was wrong and that James Torre was right about the Archbishop's birth. But if the later Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of Canterbury, hoped that Ducarel's biography would scotch the foundling stories, he was

to be disappointed. They continued to circulate. This, for example, was published in 1839 in a book about eminent Oxbridge graduates. *'Matthew Hutton was a foundling. He was left at a person's door in Priest Hutton, in the Parish of Warton on St Matthew's Day. Hence his name.'* And, as we know, the story is still very much alive and kicking in Priest Hutton.

In the absence of Parish records or other reliable documentation I cannot see how we can resolve this. If he was a foundling he must have been adopted into the existing Hutton family in Priest Hutton. Ducarel is surely right that political enemies would have used the foundling story to undermine Hutton's authority. But I know of no evidence that they did. You might think the Parish historian John Lucas would know what he was talking about when he says quite categorically, that Matthew Hutton was not a foundling; on the other hand a cynic could argue that Lucas would tend to defend the reputation of the local hero who had founded his old school, Warton Grammar School.

It is possible that there are more facts yet to be discovered. Did James Torre actually visit Warton and hear the foundling story first-hand, for example? Does the claim really rest on Torre's account alone? In the end, however, we might have to accept that it can never be fully substantiated nor entirely dismissed. But true or false, a story that caused pain and embarrassment to Hutton's family and friends centuries ago has stubbornly survived as an allegory charting the rise of a humble Lancashire lad to one of the highest offices in the land.

Notes.

1. Dr Ducarel's biography: https://bit.ly/2MqMa5Z

2. A version of this piece first appeared on Andy Denwood's own website: www.andydenwood.com

A TRIP TO HERON CORN MILL

Sheila Jones
Photographs by Simon Williams

A group from the Mourholme Local History Society assembled at Beetham's Heron Corn Mill on May 16th on a sunny day with a chill wind. We were met by Audrey and then the inestimable Stuart who was our guide for the afternoon. He had started at the mill as a maintenance man, but become a millwright, clearly learning a great deal on the job, but also through a short period of working alongside a millwright from Devon. He told us of the network of millwrights in the country who share knowledge with one another and of the availability of related reading material. Throughout the tour, in his manner of explaining the machinery and the process and in the way he answered questions it was clear how much of his work is an art rather than a science. He constantly spoke of how things felt or smelled or looked during the milling process.

Heron Corn Mill is sited on a fault line with 35 000 000 year old fossils in the rock. There were once corn mills on each side of the fault; there has also been a fulling mill, and there is currently a paper mill which buys some of its electricity from Heron's 2010 Kaplan generator. There are salmon steps running up the fall with a bridge from which the fish can be viewed.

Stuart began with a display of millstones. The composite ones from France were new to most of us. The stone was used as ballast in the boats coming over and millstones were then assembled here with a frame around the perimeter to hold them in place (Figure 1). French bur stone was an improvement on our millstone grit, but the stones still needed to be dressed every 25 years because of the wear from grain which can quite polish

them. Millstones often have radiating furrows in them to help in the discharge of the grain.

Figure 1. Composite millstones made from French bur stone.

We moved inside to look at the machinery, the oldest part being the "Lawder" frame from 1740 or earlier. The types of wood used in the machinery are hornbeam, fruitwood or beech which do not splinter. Wood could be used in combination with metal, as in the gears which have a stone nut and metal and wood cogs with beech wedges to tighten them (Figure 2). All the gears in use were from about 1850. We looked at the drying kiln used to begin the removal of the husks from the groats of the oats. There was a drying platform with perforated clay tiles which would be covered with a 10cm. layer of oats. The peat fire below (later coke, a by-product from the gas works in Milnthorpe, was used)

would dry the cereal so that smooth millstones could separate the husk from the grain ready for winnowing. An elevator carried it to the top floor from where it came down into a hopper and then between furrowed stones to be rendered into oatmeal (Figure 3). During the process many adjustments could be made by hand. The control of the sluice gates also comes into play so there is enough speed for an efficient grind without burning.

Figure 2. Wood and metal gears

There was interest in the role of the miller in relation to the landowner, and Stuart characterised the business as being like a franchise, with the huge advantage in unstable times of constant employment. He suggested that the reputation of millers as cheats was almost inevitable when farmers had nothing to

guarantee that all the grain they had brought to the mill had resulted in the amount of flour they were given back.

Stuart's expertise spread to the qualities of different types of grain and the breads they can produce. He was an excellent guide, fielding copious questions. We were only willing to be dragged away from the tour and the huge water wheel which was our final stop, by the promise of tea and cakes provided by Audrey. It was an instructive and highly enjoyable afternoon. To those on the tour with more technical expertise than I, I apologise for errors in this summary!

Figure 3. The hoppers for receiving the grain and feeding it onto the millstones (in wooden casings). Note the sack for receiving the milled flour.

REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS
Clive Holden

28th March 2018:
The Arthurian Legend in Lancashire and beyond.

Ever fancied having your head chopped off? This was no problem for the Green Knight who, when the deed was done, popped his head back between his shoulders and galloped off into the sunset. There was more to it than that, however, for when the Green Knight visited King Arthur's court he challenged someone to step forward to strike and behead him with his own axe, under the condition that the beheader should meet the Green Knight again one year later, to receive such a blow in return. His knights being understandably reluctant to accept this challenge, Arthur accepted it himself. However, in order to protect his King, Sir Gawain stepped forward and met the challenge instead. Sir Gawain was thus bound to visit the Green Knight a year hence to face the same test without the aid of magic to save him. In the event, by a 'slice' of luck (or is it ?) he is saved in the 'nick' of time. Such is the basis of this late fourteenth century alliterative poem in which the Green Knight, or Bertilak, as he is identified, puts Gawain's knightly virtues to the test in several ways, nearly all of which Gawain passes with flying colours.

Andrew Breeze, Professor of Philology at the University of Navarra in north east Spain, also told of the three poems 'Pearl', 'Purity' and 'Patience' which are thought to be by the same writer, about whose identity there is some difference of opinion.

Professor Breeze gave his views on the authorship of these poems, which were written at about the same time as Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales', but were obviously not by him. He pointed

out that the writer must have been rich and therefore not a monk; that he was very well informed on many subjects including hunting, and concluded that the so-called 'Gawain poet' was probably from the South Lancashire/Cheshire area and may well have been Sir John Stanley, who died in 1414. Professor Breeze based his ideas on studies of: dialect; the Wirral; southern France; the Garter; and aristocratic life.

The talk, delivered with clarity and good humour, was followed by an interesting question and answer session which brought a most entertaining and instructive evening to a conclusion.

10th April 2018:
Cumbrian Stone Circles – when built and what used for.
A packed house greeted **Tom Clare** for his eagerly awaited discourse on stone circles. It seems that most stone circles (timber at an earlier date) were constructed between 2500 BC and 1500 BC, and that there are many more in Cumbria than most of us realise. Stone circles are usually to be found in the north of the county, whereas ring circles (usually burial sites) are in the south. We usually think of stone circles as gathering places for religious purposes, where feasts were held and votive offerings made, but they may also have been places serving as mortuaries and perhaps where stone axes were traded. There was some debate as to the orientation of stone circles, and whether the views through the porches should be from outside or inside, and whether midwinter or midsummer is the more important time.

Most of us will have heard of Long Meg and Castlerigg, but other names such as Moor Divock, Gamelands, Swinside, White Hagg, Gunnerkeld, Oddendale, Sanford, Kinniside and

Mayburgh will not be familiar to many. On the other hand Levens Park, Sizergh Fell and Casterton all earned a mention in dispatches. So, if this inspires you to hunt for stone circles, remember that they can be found on the sides of hills, not always at the top. Our thanks for a scholarly presentation which posed some interesting questions as well as giving a wealth of information.

25th April 2018: Lancaster Merchants and The Virgin Islands c 1750-1850.

This talk was given by ***Dr Mike Winstanley*** *in memory of* ***Margaret Bainbridge,*** *a benefactor of our Society and author of 'A Silverdale Gravestone: The family of The Rev Thomas Burrow.'*

In her research for this book on her family history, Margaret Bainbridge became fascinated by the links she uncovered between Lancaster and the Virgin Islands. She initially concentrated on a ship with the unusual name of 'Abram'. Mike had known Margaret and worked with her on a book about the life of the 'Abram', between 1806 and 1862.

In the early years 'Abram' sailed from Lancaster and Liverpool to Tortola in the West Indies, involved in what was, at the time, the biggest import trade for this country. Lancaster grew significantly as a port through direct trade with the Virgin Islands, and Tortola in particular, taking out an amazing range of products made in this area and bringing back mainly cotton. sugar, coffee and mahogany. This was not part of the slave trade, although it was dependent upon slave labour to produce the products the ships brought back. In 1833 slavery was abolished in the colonies and this greatly affected the trade.

'Abram' was built in Lancaster as a speculative venture by John Brockbank on the present site of Sainsbury's by the River Lune. She was ready to sail by early 1806. The first owners were Thomas Burrow, originally from near Ingleton, and Thomas Mason of Beetham, in co-operation with Abram Chalwell Hill of Tortola. She left Lancaster on her first crossing in January 1806 waiting at Cork until 14 April to join a convoy with Royal Navy escort to protect against attack by the French. In due course Burrow and partners owned 10 ships which were all engaged in this trade.

The British Virgin Islands were close to other islands colonised by the Dutch and for a time these were occupied by the British, leading to an increase in trade. Almost all of the growth in Lancaster's port activities were due to the Tortola connection. The British, however, had arrived on the Virgin Islands long before this trading relationship began. In 1730's Quakers settled on the islands and they, with connections in this area, later began to develop the trade links. The Birketts from Cartmel were early settlers who set up a Quaker 'house' and established the Quaker Meeting there. Many followed from this area including John Coakley Lettsom, William Thornton and the Johnsons, Hetheringtons and Rawlinsons. Richard Hetherington became President of Tortola and spent much time there but also maintained a fine house in Caton.

The trade, which had many ups and downs, dropped dramatically in 1814-15 and in 1818 'Abram' was sold and became a whaler working from Hull. In 1819 a hurricane hit Tortola causing major devastation and estates suffered financial ruin. Some owners had been heavily in debt to Thomas Burrow and he took ownership of several estates as settlement of these debts.

Burrow carried on in business until, in 1841, the cotton trade collapsed and he became bankrupt. In 1849 he was imprisoned in Lancaster Castle for debt, and a bank in Kendal took control of all his assets including the estates on Tortola.

It was fascinating to learn that much of Lancaster's growth and prosperity had been founded on the trading relationship with a group of relatively small islands in the West Indies. Just a few people had led this trade and amassed great wealth for a period. It was also very interesting to hear that Quakers from a comparatively small area had settled on these islands almost 300 years ago.

26th September 2018: Packhorse History.

In the hour or so allowed for her illustrated talk **Margaret Dickinson** packed an enormous amount of information into the story of a thousand years of pack horse trails and bridges, a quarter of which were located in the north west of England. The packhorse trails were vital for the transport of goods from castle to castle, abbey to abbey, and town to town, whether it was for produce for markets and fairs, or materials such as wool, so important for the prosperity of a town such as Kendal. An interesting point was Margaret's description of Kendal's Civic Arms showing 'J' shaped 'wanty hooks', which were hooks for securing the load on a pack horse's back, rather than tenter hooks used in the drying of wool on a frame or fence. Just as a bell wether had a bell attached to it to lead a flock of sheep, so did a leading pack horse have a bell to guide its followers.

A few of the pack horse bridges which were very narrow and without parapets would have required great care in crossing; others, on closer scrutiny, had obviously been widened, and

therefore been made much safer. It was obvious that the bridges had been built to withstand the elements, hence the number still to be found intact, though sometimes hidden from view. Starting at Clitheroe we were taken in a northward direction to Kendal, Grasmere, Keswick, into the Lune gorge and the west Pennines: eventually covering a huge area.

For those interested in discovering packhorse bridges and trails, the following may be of interest: Devil's Bridge at Kirkby Lonsdale (known to us all); Laverock Bridge at Skelsmergh; Cromwell's Bridge at Stonyhurst; New England near Capernwray; Lobby Bridge near Cartmel; Duddon Bridge near Broughton in Furness; Rawfold Bridge near Duddon Hall, Millom Without; Bleabeck Bridge near Ulpha; Lingcove Bridge in Eskdale; Monks (Matty Benn's) Bridge in Ennerdale; Galloway Gate in Dentdale and Wycoller Bridge, near Colne: the oldest of them and the one which sparked Margaret's interest in packhorse bridges.

We were much indebted to Margaret for her deep knowledge of packhorse history and for several moments of hilarity.

NOTES AND QUERIES

TWO QUESTIONS ABOUT BUILDINGS IN MARKET STREET IN CARNFORTH

Clive Holden

Free Trade Buildings

When they were first erected in the early 1880 those buildings at the top of Market Street in Carnforth, which in 2018 house 'Age UK' (no 33), 'Harvey's Bargains' (no 31), 'Viva Dental Practice' (no 29), and 'International Aid Trust' (no 27), were known as 'The Free Trade Buildings'. The earliest shops known to have been there were Stephenson Bros. (drapers) who occupied Nos. 33 & 31 in 1881, John Williams (butcher) at No. 29 in 1881, and James Robinson (boot & shoe maker) by 1889. Can anyone suggest what, **in this context**, was meant by 'Free Trade'?

The Royal Station Hotel

The Royal Station Hotel at Carnforth was opened in 1881, originally without the prefix 'Royal'. It has been said that it became 'Royal' following a visit by a member of the royal family in the early 1900s. Is there any solid proof to substantiate this claim, and if so, who was the member (or members) of the royal family ?

Can anyone provide answers to these two puzzling questions about Carnforth?

A WARTIME AIR CRASH IN WARTON

Sheila Jones

This summer I received an enquiry from Nigel Fletcher regarding a military air crash on April 21st, 1943, in the Main St. of Warton. Because there is no evidence of a plane having caused damage on Main St. and because I have an old acquaintance, Bob Smith, who had previously told me more than once of going to a crash site "in a field at the foot of Warton Crag" where the pilot was horribly imploded by the impact, I took this to be the same event and sent Mr Fletcher Bob's version. He was unconvinced and made further investigation, finding the following:

Wed 21 Apr 1943 FLYING TRAINING COMMAND Practice flight
Anson I N4953 - took off at about 1615 and 45 minutes later broke up after failure of the port wing while flying over the village of Warton, just north of Carnforth. As the wreckage fell into Milestone (sic) Main Street the pilot died when flung out at 300 feet without his parachute. He was buried on the 24th in the Churchyard of St John the Baptist Flookburgh, [grave 87] near his base. Investigation revealed that the main cross beam near the aileron had not been properly secured during manufacture. Upon inspection, four other Ansons were discovered to have the same fault.

The Pilot was Sgt Noel Leonard Pittendrigh, aged 21, of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, stationed at the Staff Pilot Training Unit, RAF Cark, Lancashire. He was an experienced pilot, training to do reconnaissance flying. More can be found at this website: http://rnzaf.proboards.com/thread/26992/leonard-pittendrigh-rnzaf-service-nz42502

I told Clive Holden, our committee member and long-term Carnforth resident, and he remembered the incident, thinking that the aircraft was a trainer plane, and therefore surprising, he thought, that it had only one man aboard. He remembered the crash as being in a field with the pilot partially buried.

Clive then contacted his brother who actually saw the plane come down on the Warton Crag side of the road, in a field behind some semis between Town End and The Malt Shovel. Clive's brother surmised that the pilot might be buried in the war graves at Skerton Cemetery. He says that the pilot, with no parachute, was thrown out of the plane with some force, and flung into the boggy land on the other side of the road from the plane. The force of his landing partially buried him so that only his legs and feet were visible.

Can anyone add to or clarify these conflicting accounts of this tragic air crash; and can anyone suggest why Warton Main Street is referred to as 'Milestone Main Street', in the official account of the air crash?

MOURHOLME SPEAKER PROGRAMME
September 2018 to April 2019

26th September, 2018
Packhorse History: Margaret Dickinson.
For a thousand years goods were moved on packhorses, particularly in hilly country.The North West, and particularly Cumbria, has a rich history of the routes and bridges that have survived

31st October, 2018
Early Maps – from Antiquity to the Tudors: Dr Bill Shannon
A brief look at ancient and medieval maps, before looking at the cartographic explosion in the Tudor period that produced: maps of the New World; new maps of England; maps of the counties; and local maps.

28th November, 2018
Warton Crag. An Iron Age Fort – or Is It? Kevin Grice
A discussion of antiquarian sources about the supposed Iron Age Hill Fort on Warton Crag, and accounts of new archaeological research, including an evaluation of the results of recent LiDAR imaging.

19th December, 2018 ***PLEASE NOTE THE DATE***
The Chimney at Jenny Brown's Point: Simon Williams and Louise Martin
A five year examination of the chimney at Jenny Brown's Point by the Morecambe Bay Partnership has recently concluded. Simon and Louise will describe what has been found, and what is now the most likely story behind the chimney.

30th January, 2019
Almshouses in the North West: Dr Jean Turnbull
Dr Turnbull will examine the history of almshouses in Britain from the medieval period to the present day; she will discuss who are they for and who set them up, and will demonstrate the crucial role they still play in providing social housing in our region.

27th February, 2019

Development of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Palatinate of Lancaster: Mike Derbyshire

The Duchy and Palatinate of Lancaster are two linked, but quite distinct, bodies.The Duchy is still with us, as a trust owning property for the benefit of the Queen.The Palatinate was responsible for managing the superior civil and criminal courts that operated in Lancashire from the fourteenth to the twentieth century, quite separate from the national courts.

27th March, 2019

Monasteries of North Lancashire and South Cumbria: Dr Alan Crosby.

Medieval Lancashire and Cumbria had few monasteries, but they are unusually well documented. This talk explores their origins; landholdings; commercial interests; fine buildings; their role in the community; their links with the wider world; and their eventual fate. Most importantly it asks how the religious houses of the region were judged during the traumatic times of the Reformation and Dissolution.

24th April, 2019 AGM, followed by:

Any More Fares Please? Bill Robinson.

A look at the development of rural bus services in our corner of the North West after the First World War, from the early pioneers to the eventual monopoly of Ribble Motor Services. The talk includes a short film, made by Ribble in the early 1960s, to encourage Lancashire County Council to complete the motorway link between the Preston and Lancaster by-passes