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Contents:

Page

THOMAS DEAN (1796-1870)
Arthur Penn

1

RUDE FOREFATHERS
The Story of an English Village 1600-1666
Francis H. West
(Extracts by John Findlater)

5

SILVERDALE'S PERILOUS SHORE
AN 18th CENTURY TRAGEDY
Margaret Bainbridge and Michael Wright

13

FURTHER NOTES FROM THE
WHINNERAH'S DIARY
N.T. Stobbs

21

BRIGADIER TRYON WILSON

35

PROFESSOR PETER YATES

36

PROGRAMME FOR 2001-2002

Inside Back Cover

Archive

The
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Magazine
of Local History

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*Mourholme Local History Society (Charity Reg. No. 512765)
covers the Old Parish of Warton containing the Townships of
Warton with Lindeith, Silverdale, Borwick, Priest Hutton,
Carnforth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne.*

41

41

THOMAS DEAN
(1796-1870)

Arthur Penn

Dean was vicar of Warton for 26 years in the mid-nineteenth century. It was in his time that services were first held in the old Tithebarns of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester at Carnforth and Priest Hutton. Yealand was already independent and Silverdale had its own church and minister. Dean it was who noticed the dangerous state of the south aisle of Warton church in 1848 and dealt with the expensive re-building of the arcade under Edward Paley. He was also responsible for the first Victorian stained glass in the church, which according to James Erving, was put in without even the knowledge of the churchwardens. Erving seems to have thought him a Romaniser and also criticised him for hawking over the vexed question as to whether the psalms should be chanted. He must have found Erving a difficult parishioner, for, as has been described in an earlier article in the magazine, he took every opportunity to denigrate him in his commonplace book. The east window in the chapel is in memory of his first wife Mary, and that on the north side of the sanctuary is in memory of Dean himself, who is described as Rural Dean of Tunstall.

More information has come to light recently about Dean's earlier career through an inquiry addressed to the vicar of Warton by Tony Brooks of Camborne, Cornwall. Mr. Brooks, in researching his family history discovered that his great-great-aunt Mary Whitworth became Dean's second wife in 1864 when he

was 71. Her father was a successful cotton millowner at Facit, near Rochdale. Mr. Brooks has a silver tankard given to Dean by the parishioners of Colwall near Malvern in 1841. He has discovered that Dean ran a school there between 1819 and 1845. His appointment was also as curate of Berrow and Little Malvern. He had just been ordained by the Bishop of Salisbury at the minimum age of 23 when appointed. The school was endowed by Humphrey Walwyn and was supervised by the Worshipful Company of Grocers. Dean took on a run-down establishment. A recent book by Pamela Hurlé 'Portrait of a School, the Elms in Colwall 1614-2000' describes his efforts and their success. The master was paid a salary of £30 per annum by the charity and the school was established as a 'Free School' rather than a Grammar School. However Dean's predecessor had, according to a report in 1818 'studiously discouraged' the poorer children from attending 'in order that they might not interfere with the more lucrative class of scholars...it has become a boarding school instead of a free school'. There were 18 boys in the school and not one was able to say the Lord's Prayer. The master's house was uninhabitable and Dean lodged at a farmhouse. A deputation sent by the Grocers' confirmed what Dean had reported, and the Company co-operated with him in rectifying matters. They 'heard with Pleasure that the Parishioners were loyal and all of the established church but at the same time with a mixture of Regret we heard that they had little Inclination to attend that Church'. There was a problem about the boys attending church as there is no accommodation for them, but the deputation 'had no Doubt that the Company would be at the expense of a few forms whereby the rising generation of a Parish consisting of about 700 might be kept firm in their loyalty, free from Schism and be taught to thank the Almighty for the almost peculiar abundance

annually bestowed upon them and the Neighbourhood - altho their parents have hitherto neglected to do so.'

Dean was 'much esteemed in the Neighbourhood' and was approved by Lord Somers of Eastnor Castle and by one of the churchwardens, 'Mr. Barrett, a gentleman of fortune residing at a castle called Hope End, built in the Turkish style'. This was the father of the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Unfortunately for the reputation of Dean's preaching she wrote in her diary in 1831 'heard Mr. Dean preach a sleepy kind of sermon', and, later 'Mr. Dean's preaching is not worth disturbing ones's feelings.' In 1822 the number of pupils had risen to 57. Dean was able to augment his small stipend by taking boarders and in the 1841 census is shown as having 17 boys, aged 9 to 15. In 1841 he married Mary, who was aged 40, and in 1844 left the school 'to take up a position in Chester, he was given a hundred guineas by the Grocers' for his zealous and efficient services'. Warton was at that time in the diocese of Chester, and the patrons being the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, it would seem that this Colwall reputation must have been the reason for his appointment.

A curious feature of Dean's opinions comes out in his response to the 1851 [religious] census. He was fairly new to the parish and had begun services in the Sunday School at Carnforth which was licensed for worship in 1850. He stated that over three months the average attendance was 80. In reporting for Warton Church, however, he was more circumspect. There was some reluctance on the part of the Church of England clergy to carry out the count of heads required on Sunday March 31, though all the other local clergy did so. Dean left the space blank and under 'remarks' wrote: see 1 Chron. Chap 21 and 2 Sam, Chap 24. He

certified the return 'except as to the number of Persons attending divine service which cannot be taken without prophaning God's Holy Sabbath'. The Biblical references are to the census David carried out of able-bodied men capable of bearing arms. This amounted to 1,570,000 (the two accounts differ). God's displeasure at David for numbering the people led to a choice of punishment - famine, defeat in war and plague. He chose the last and 70,000 died. Dean must have taken the prohibition of census literally, and, perhaps, feared similar visitations.

Dean died September 25 1870 and his widow took up residence at Burton Old Hall where she died in 1909.

RUDE FOREFATHERS The Story of an English Village 1600-1666

Francis Horner West (Archdeacon of Newark)
(Illustrations by Alice M. West)

John Findlater

It seemed a quite instructive exercise to follow Arthur Penn's article on Thomas Dean, Vicar of Warton Parish with the picture Francis West gave of the vicar of Upton-by-Southwell, at the beginning of the seventeenth century. This can also be compared with what we know of the vicars of Warton in the seventeenth century - Wm Owbourne M.A. (d.1613), Anthony Bugg, James Smorthwaite B.A. and so on as outlined in our book "HOW IT WAS", pp 159/160.

EXTRACT FROM RUDE FOREFATHERS
(These are made so far as possible using Francis West's own words)

There are many references in the account books to Mr. Martin Ballard, vicar of the parish for 36 years, whose incumbency covered the most eventful period of Upton's history. During the Civil War he shared in the discomforts and hardships of his parishioners, contributing with the others to the maintenance of the troops in the vicinity of the village, and sometimes accompanying the constable on missions to Newark.

Macauley, in his description of England in 1685, refers to the humble origin of the majority of the country clergy. One of Martin Ballard's daughters married John Sandes the Weaver, another a Thomas Sare who apparently could not sign his own name. The 17th century parson certainly never attained the same position in society as did the clergy in the days of Queen Victoria. A mid-nineteenth century successor of Mr. Ballard's married the squire's daughter at Upton Hall. It is highly improbable that a child of the Vicarage two centuries earlier would have aspired to the hand of a young Oglethorpe (the squire's son). But the parochial system has ensured the presence of at least one educated man in every village, an advantage which was more apparent in the days when only a minority of the population was literate. Mr. Ballard probably had a good deal more learning than the Squire. The records show that he was often consulted about the numerous official documents, warrants and assessments which descended upon the 17th century wardens and constables. In 1646 he helped draw up the statement of the losses incurred by the village during the troublous years of the Civil War.

Of his opinions and personality we know nothing. Presumably he conformed to Parliament's ecclesiastical regulations and accepted the Directory Service Book, without voicing any objections, for, unlike his neighbour at Rolleston, he was allowed to retain his living during the Commonwealth. But the commission which was set up in 1654 to enquire into the state of the ministry in the parishes, reported that he was too old for the responsibilities of his office, and that the village required a younger man as its minister. Possibly because a more suitable man was not forthcoming, Mr. Ballard was not removed from his

vicarage and remained there until his death in 1664 nearly four years after the restoration of Charles II.

The Vicarage



The parish registers and his will give us a glimpse of the last months of his life which appear to have been clouded with sorrow and misfortune. Two of his children, Martin and Elizabeth, were undutiful and refused to write to him. On 4th September 1663, his wife, Joan, died to be followed in January by their widowed daughter, Rebecca Sandes. Two months later the lonely old man, lying in his four-poster bed in the vicarage parlour, dictated his last Will and Testament to his son-in-law, Thomas Sare, and two of his parishioners. His undutiful children he cut off with a shilling apiece. The rest of his property he left to his three grandchildren. The next day he died. On March 22nd,

1663-4, his body was buried in the church, across the way from the house in which he had lived for 36 years.

Mr. Ballard's nuncupative will. (A nuncupative will is one that is dictated by word of mouth to witnesses.)

That upon 20th day of March Anno Dni 1663 Martin Ballard the late vicar of Upton neare Southwell in the county of Nottingham being then in perfect mind and memorie and being fitt in body and did (with intent to make his last will nuncupative) dispose of his estate in manor following or words to that effect. Viz. he said that he had a son called Martin Ballard and a daughter whose name was Elizabeth and sayed that they were disobedient and would not write to him and therefore he sayed that he did give the said Martin his said son and the said Elizabeth his daughter XLId apiece. And he did give the rest of all his goodes, debts having first been paid and funerall expenses discharged to his three grandchildren John Sandys, Rebecca Sandys, and Sarah Sare to be equally divided amongst them: there being then and there present and witnesses to the same

Richard Gibson, Thomas Sare, Frances the wife of George Harper.

A true and perfect Inventrie of all the goods and Chattells of Martin Ballard clerk late Vicar of Upton deceased. Seene and priced the 23rd day of March 1663 (4) By Gervase Cullin Richard Gibson and Thomas Sare as followeth:

[The detailed inventory has not been given here but it amounted to the certified Sume £24. 8s. 8d.]

Per RIC; Gibson, Gervase Culling. The marke of X Tho. Sare

Mr. Thomas Wilson, Martin Ballard's predecessor, died intestate in 1628, and his estate was divided between his widow, Joyce, and the three children of his first marriage. The inventory of his goods and chattels has also survived, so we have a good deal of interesting information about the size and contents of a Nottinghamshire Vicarage three hundred years ago.

In 1664 there were six rooms and a dairy. In Mr. Wilson's day there were seven. For that period the house was a substantial one, comparable with that of a prosperous yeoman. 'Ye House' was the name given to the entrance hall, the largest room downstairs, which also served as a dining room. There the Vicar would entertain his warden, and in winter time, when the church was cold, he might catechise the children in it. It is the only room in the house where a chimney with fire-irons is mentioned. Mr. Wilson's inventory gives a detailed list of them; hooks, tongs, shovel, spit and cob-irons. This list suggests that the joint was cooked here and not in the kitchen. There were two large tables in this room, a settle, forms, stools and a cupboard. Chairs were only just coming into general use in the middle of the 17th century and they were still far from comfortable.

Mr. Ballard's household consisted of himself and his wife, his widowed daughter and her two children in their teens. There would also have been a man servant and a maid to assist in the house. There was plenty of room for this family, and for guests as well, around the tables.

Mr. Ballard's list of crockery and cutlery seems to be incomplete. Mr. Wilson's is far more detailed. It consists of seven pewter dishes, two porringers, two saucers, two salts and six pewter spoons. The spoons would suffice for gravy, porridge and pudding, but there is no mention of knives and forks for meat. This is because none would ever be found in an early 17th century parsonage. In smaller houses each grown up member of the family carried his own knife round with him, attached to a belt or girdle, and he would use it for other purposes as well as for cutting up food. Forks had not yet come into fashion in England, and when

Thomas Coryat imitated the Italians by taking one to the table, he was much ridiculed, and nicknamed *Furcifer*. In 1618 Nicholas Breton in 'The Courtier and the Countryman', "poked fun at those who preferred a fork to the fingers." "As for us in the Country" he wrote, "When we have washed our hands after no foul work, nor handling any unwholesome thing we need no little forks to make hay with our mouths to throw our meat into them." It was not till after the Restoration that the more elegant continental table manners were adopted in England, and then only at first by those who had been on the Grand Tour and had grown to be ashamed of their fellow countrymen's lack of refinement. To return to Mr. Wilson's inventory, it is not surprising to find that he had twelve linen table napkins in his storeroom - very much essential after he had been, quite literally, at grips with his dinner.

The kitchen at the Vicarage was a luxury, for many yeomans' houses did not yet possess one. Both inventories suggest that only light cooking in pans was done there, and that it was used primarily as a larder and for preparing food such as pastry. The 'painted clothes' in the kitchen were canvas cloths painted to look like tapestry. Tapestry was very popular in well to do houses in the 17th century, but of course a country vicar could not afford so great a luxury and had to be content with a cheaper form of wall decoration. Doubtless Mr. Ballard's 'painted clothes' had been put in the kitchen for the purpose of the sale. In Mr. Wilson's time they were hung in the great Parlour.

The 'five inner doors' also did not belong to the kitchen. Today one would not expect to find interior doors in the sale of vicarage furniture. But in the 17th century doors and windows were regarded as personal property and not as permanent fittings,

and were therefore put into the sale along with the rest of the moveable effects. In this case the doors seem to have been taken down from their hinges and removed to the kitchen with the wall hangings.

The parlour was a ground floor sitting room, smaller and cosier than 'Ye House'. It contained two tables, one of them small, which the vicar and his wife might use when they wished to sup quietly alone. Here also was a desk at which he could write his letters and sermons. The best bed in the house was also in this room, 'the ceiled bedstead' - a fourposter with a ceiling of wood. For the former had a feather bed, a much prized possession at that time. Ropes interlaced across the frame of the bed made a primitive spring foundation on which was laid the mattress. On top of all a coverlet. The smaller parlours seem to have been used entirely as bedrooms. The study in both inventories contained nothing but the Vicar's books. The chamber, the biggest room upstairs was used as a storeroom for agricultural implements, harness, spinning wheels and the produce of the fields. Most likely it was reached from the yard by an outside staircase. In Mr. Ballard's time it contained wheat and pease, in Mr. Wilson's barley and malt from which he and the servants would brew table beer. Amongst Mr. Wilson's effects were two spinning wheels and two looms. These would be used by his wife and daughter for making cloth, and doubtless, the linen sheets which were in the house at the time of his death. For there is mention of flax 'on the ground' in one of his fields.

Mr. Ballard had a mare to take him to Southwell and a cow to provide milk for butter and cheese. Mr. Wilson had three cows, a calf, heifer and three pigs. Their income was derived from

what they could make from their five acres of land in open fields, surplice fees, twopence from every communicant at Easter, a penny for every garden in the parish and, possibly, a small augmentation from the Southwell Chapter. They also had the lesser tithe of the parish; that is one tenth of all hay, poultry, eggs, pigs and fruit trees. The greater tithe on all wheat belonged to the Chapter at Southwell as rector of the parish.

The 17th century vicar received very little of his income in cash. Apart from the small grant from Southwell, the fees and the Easter dues, he was paid for his pastoral duties in kind. With the exception of his clothes for which his wife probably made the cloth ready for the tailor, his books, and a few luxuries like sugar and tobacco, he could live almost entirely on the land.

SILVERDALE'S PERILOUS SHORE: AN 18th CENTURY TRAGEDY

Margaret Bainbridge and Michael Wright.

Lancaster-born William Hewitson (1847-1930), a journalist based mainly in Bury, published a regular column on antiquarian and historical matters in the *Lancaster Observer* between 1886 and 1926. Even though he seldom named his sources his writings can be of value especially in providing information about Lancaster and district for the years before its own locally-produced newspaper, the *Lancaster Gazetteer*, appeared in June 1801.

Between October 1887 and June 1888 these contributions were published under the title "Local Incidents of the 18th Century". The column devoted to the year 1787, published on 2nd March 1888, includes this item:-

"The following is reported as occurring one Saturday evening in August:-

'Mr John Jackson, a reputable manufacturer at Silverdale, near Lancaster Sands, went for amusement to gather mussels on a place called the Stone-heap, upon the sands, situate very near the land, about which the channel now runs. Being too eager in picking the mussels, he did not observe the coming in of the tide till he was surrounded, when, finding it impossible to get off, he set to work in heaping up the stones to save himself, in which attempt he continued about two hours, when the tide proving too strong for him he was washed off in the sight of several of his relations and neighbours

who had been spectators of his dismal situation for some time without being able to give him the least assistance. Next morning his body was found near the place."

We can add two further details:-

- 1) the date: August 11th (the Saturday before the victim's burial on the 14th, a Tuesday);
- 2) the time: as low tide at Lancaster on that day was 10.04 a.m. and 10.36 p.m., high tide at Silverdale would have been between 4 and 5 in the afternoon.¹

This account though short, provides valuable clues concerning both (1) the state of the Silverdale foreshore, about which all too little is known, and 2) on a long-established Silverdale family and local industry.

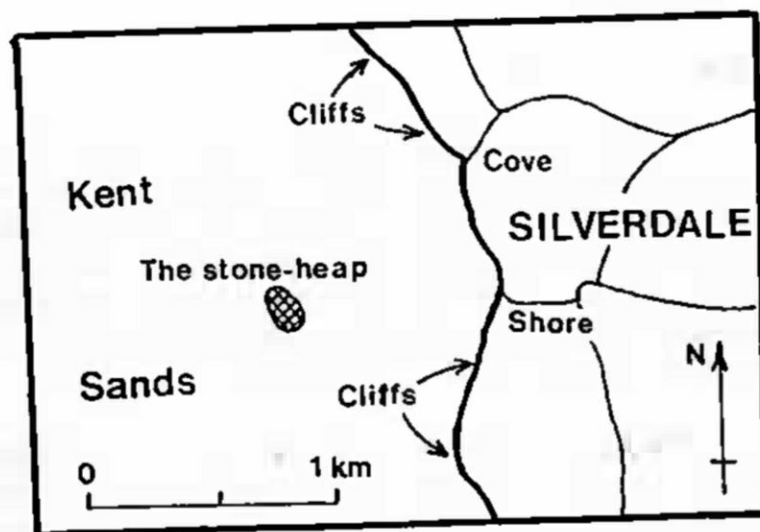
(1) THE FORESHORE

From this newspaper report the "Stone-heap" can be readily identified as the bouldery ground that lies about 900 metres west of Shore Cottages, Silverdale. The boulders have been washed out of the top of a mound of glacial deposits (probably a drumlin) which is now almost completely buried in the sands of the Bay. Their size and the tenacity of the clay in which they are embedded make them resistant to movement. Even the strongly scouring tidal flows that course over them each day cannot disperse them.

This Stone-heap has from time to time been buried beneath the seaward extensions of the tidal salt-marsh. In 1981, during the cycle of erosion, it lay on the edge of the grassy marsh

and could be safely approached on foot from the Silverdale shore. But today the marsh has receded so that the Stone-heap is cut off from the shore by the river Kent channel, up which the main force of the incoming tide flows. The 1787 report quoted makes it clear that at that date part at least of the Kent channel flowed between the Stone-heap and the shore. Once the water was flowing up the channel, possibly at 10 miles an hour or more, it would have been impossible to wade across, or to cross in a boat, even if one had been available.

The Location of the Stone-heap, Silverdale Shore.



This adds to our knowledge of the fluctuations in the size of the salt-marsh. We know from Stout's diary that the marsh was very extensive in the 1670s but was rapidly eroding from the late 1670s on. It had all but disappeared by 1700 and had not

recovered by the 1740s. Adding this new evidence, it seems likely that the marsh remained small until the late 1700s. It was probably still small in the 1830s since at that date sea-bathing at Silverdale was becoming popular.

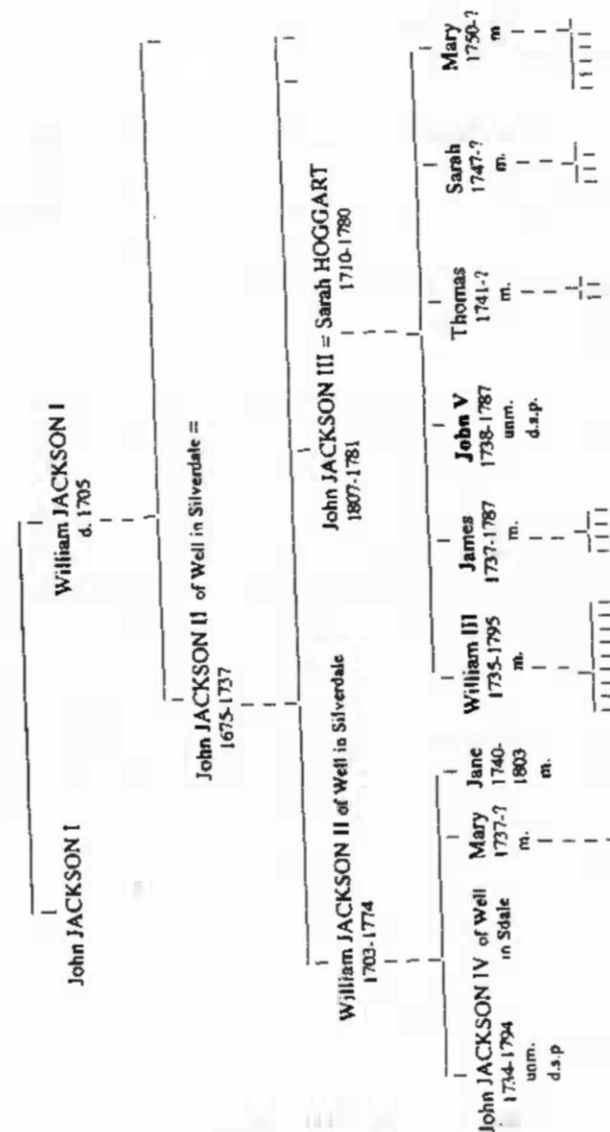
Piecing together all the fragmentary evidence from the last 450 years, we know that the marsh was rapidly eroded in the 1570s², the 1670s and the 1970s. At each of these times the local farmers were facing the loss of hundreds of acres of good grazing on the salt-marsh. It is their complaints about this loss of an important asset that gave us the written evidence for erosion in the 1570s and 1670s.

(2) JOHN JACKSON

Warton parish register records John Jackson's burial on August 14th, describing him as being of Slackwood. From probate records we learn that he was a "batchelor and weaver" and had a sister Sarah, wife of Richard Cornthwaite, also of Slackwood; as John died intestate it was they who were granted administration of his effects. These facts are enough to distinguish this family from other Jacksons in the parish. (See the family tree next page).

The Jacksons had been in Silverdale since the 17th century at least. The John Jackson drowned on August 11th 1787 was the third of the four sons of John Jackson III (1707-1781) and his wife Sarah (1710-1780), daughter of George Hoggart of Challen Hall. Their first son was William III (1735-1795), the next James (1737-1783). John himself (John V) was baptised in 1738 which makes him 49 at his death, not 38, the age given in the parish register. The fourth son, Thomas, was baptised in 1741 and died

Part of the Jackson Family Tree



before 1781. There followed two daughters: Sarah (bp. 1747) and Mary (bp. 1750).

The father and all four sons were weavers. All five had become freemen of Lancaster in October 1773 as "wevers" of "Silverdale", thereby being entitled to trade in Lancaster. However, by the time of John V's tragic death, three had died. Only the eldest brother William III and their two sisters survived him.

Which fabric did they weave? We know that linen was made in the parish; but was it produced for sale? The only document that has so far come to light specifying a cloth is to be found in an account book of Abraham and John Rawlinson, merchants of Lancaster, which is kept in Lancaster library.³ An entry dated 9th September 1786 records the payment of £36.13s. To Enoch Fryer of Silverdale for two batches of harden, one made up of 18 pieces, each 33 yards in length, at 17s.6d each, the other of 22 pieces, each 36 yards long, at 19s apiece. Harden was cloth made from the coarser parts of flax or hemp. Enoch Fryer had some customary land in the township. But did John operate through an agent, which Enoch Fryer was, or did he, as a freeman, trade in Lancaster on his own account?

Where in Silverdale was the Jackson's home? For three generations, until 1795, the senior male of each is described in his will as "of Well in Silverdale". But which well? It is nowhere specific.

However, the first Jackson we have information about, William I (d. 1705), had besides freehold land, its site not

recorded, a customary tenancy at Waterslack. This passed to his only son John II (d.1735), grandfather of the John V who drowned, and then to his eldest son William II (d.1760). It then passed to William's only son John IV who was childless (d.1794), and thus to his nephew John Askew who eventually sold it.

Although John III, the father of the four weaver sons, being a younger son, did not inherit the land at "the Well" or the tenancy at Waterslack in 1736, the Manor Court Book shows that he and two of his sons acquired customary land at Waterslack by purchase: John III himself in 1757, James his son in 1781 and John V, the son who was drowned, in 1782. It is possible that their childhood was spent at Waterslack. When young the four sons may have worked with their father, but as adults they were dispersed:-

- the eldest William III, bought a customary messuage and tenement at Cove about the time of his marriage in 1764; it is there that at least the first two of his children were born.
- James was a husbandman and weaver at Arnside Tower at the time of his marriage in 1775 and a month before when his apprentice died.⁴ It was there that his four children were born and where he died in 1783.
- John V himself had not always been at Slackwood for, when acting as his father's executor in 1781 and then his brother James's in 1783, he is described as a "weaver of Yealand".
- Thomas was "of Silverdale" when his first child was baptised in 1768 but "of Slackwood" at the baptism of his second in 1777. He may be the Thomas buried in 1780 and described as "of Yealand Storrs", "weaver".

- Sally, although also of Slackwood at the time of the incident, had previously lived in Yealand Redmayne where her three children were born.
- Mary, the youngest, married to Thomas Bowskill, lived in Warton at least between 1774 and 1793 when her five children were baptised.

The Jacksons of Waterslack, and later Redbridge also, remained there through the 19th century and into the 20th. There are still descendants in Silverdale today.

Notes

1. Nigel Dalziel, curator of Lancaster Maritime Museum kindly supplied this information.
2. Mourholme Local History Society, "How It Was: A North Lancashire Parish in the Seventeenth Century", p. 50
3. Lancaster library MS 239
4. Beetham parish register.

FURTHER NOTES FROM THE WHINNERAH'S DIARY

N.T. Stobbs

The second exploration of the Diary would hope to concentrate on the arable aspect of the farm, dates of operations, possible use of machinery, crops sown and harvested, and other details of the use of farm labour and resources for the use of the community. There also seem to be notes on agricultural societies such as ploughing matches and agriculture shows. *Monday 18th Jan. Warton ploughing Committee arranged to hold the ploughing at Mr Thwaites.*

From the 1881 Census a John Thwaites farmed 240 acres at Lane End Farm. In the 1891 Census there is a Thomas Thwaites farming at Cotestones. Where the ploughing match was to be held is open to conjecture at the moment.

The rest of the entries for January tell of ploughing stubble and ley (sown grassland). During the month they carted manure onto the land, presumably before it was ploughed, or to be spread later on grass. There are also entries showing that the farm horses & carts were used for the good of the community. *Friday 22nd Jan. carting with 1 horse for township ½ day. Monday 25th Jan 1 cart on highway ½ day.*

There are also entries showing the use the horses and carts were put to as the means of transport for various farm and household requirements. *Wednesday 27th Jan. Fetched a load of coal from Carnforth.* It must be assumed that he went to the Railway Coal yard for this load.

Two entries indicate that they used 'concentrates' and other 'imported foodstuffs' as well as home-grown grain and roots to feed the stock. *Saturday 23rd Jan. Fetched provender. Saturday 30th Jan. Fetched 4 sacks bran 2 sacks pea meal and 1 oil-dust.* Bran is used in feeding horses; pea meal is used, as a protein source, for most herbivorous livestock and oil-dust was a by-product of the 'nut oil' extraction process also used as a protein source. It is interesting to note that fetching of stock feed seemed to be a 'Saturday job' at least in January.

February seems to have been occupied with ploughing and pulling turnips. The turnips were carted to the barn where they would be stored for feeding stock housed in the 'steading'. Another interpretation of the entry of the 10th Feb. *Sheep finished big bank turnips* is that the *big bank* mentioned was a large clamp of turnips which had been 'pulled' and then stored in a heap which was covered in straw to protect the 'roots' from frost. This would make them available to the sheep whatever the weather. Frozen roots are not good food for ruminants. There are also indications that the sheep were 'folded' on turnips, that is they protect the roots in to a restricted area by 'sheep-nets' or hurdles. There is no indication if it was nets or hurdles that were used. Considering the coppice woods which exist in the area, one may assume that it would be wooden hurdles that were used. Another entry further on shows that they did indeed use 'sheep netting' not hurdles.

During February it appears that there were various ploughing matches held in the local area and further afield. Warton Hall Farm seems to have been a centre for the local ploughing match. *Monday 15 Feb. Mackereth's, Thompson's,*

Clement's, Hargreaves's, Lawson's, and Thompson's, Overton teams land and stayed all night. If this was the horses or the men is not made clear. *Tuesday 16 Feb Warton Ploughing. Thompson, Hest Bank won for pair of horses with Lawson second and Clement third. Wednesday 17th Feb Clements team went away. G and M Lawson, Thompson Hargreaves and self went to card at Mr. Burrow's, Yealand. Thursday 18th Feb. Hargreaves, Thompson and Messrs Lawson went home at noon should have gone ploughing at Milnthorpe but too hard.*

It would appear that the 'ploughing' was not the only activity in which this group participated. That is assuming that 'card' indicated the manipulation of pasteboards!! Ploughing was the most mentioned activity in the rest of February and early March.

The sons each made a journey to London. Edmond on the *22nd Feb. At Midnight, and James on 1st March arriving at 7.30 a.m.* It appears they both went on the midnight train? An entry that is rather confusing to interpret. *Wednesday 3rd March Left London 4.30pm. Stayed at the Wrekin Hotel, Wellington all night..* Was it James or the writer of the diary who stayed at Wellington? Why apparently break the journey at Wellington? This is one of the difficulties of trying to read the intentions of short entries in the diary. Obviously the writer knew what he intended to convey, at a distance of nearly 110 years it is very difficult for anyone to know his exact intentions. Another point is that the railways have changed so much that one is not even sure if the line from here went through Wellington.

There is mention of the usual mundane activities essential to running of a farm, collection of provender from the mill and station, collection of coals from Carnforth, returning 66 sacks to Dockray's and bringing provender back. Apparently Dockray's were a farm feed stuffs/provision merchants in this area. They had a depot in Kendal until the middle of the 20th century.

A considerable time seems to have been spent in dealing with *Manure*. Getting it out of various sheds and folds, carting on to the land spreading it and then ploughing it in. There is mention of putting *tank* on mangold rows in May. This would presumably be 'liquid manure/urine' collected in tanks from the cattle standings and then transferred to a mobile tank, and taken out to the fields. Something that we are familiar with, locally, these days but on grassland. I think that the farm was using some kind of 'artificial manure' as well as the more traditional organically produced type for on *Friday 20th May. Carting stones from seed field — Sowing manure and rolling seeds*. This seems to indicate that it was in a granular or powder form. The use of the word *sowing* rather than "spreading", which is used elsewhere in connection to manure, gives the clue. There are also mentions of jobs being done that were not for the farm but for the community. *Collection of coals for school (2), Carted 3 and 7 loads of stone to Low Weir* on different days. This type of entry continues throughout the year.

One odd entry is on 10th Feb. *Mother paid Geo. Beck £5/10s for coals*. (present value x35.5 £193). Who is mother? Is it the wife of the writer? From personal experience, this term is often applied to the wife of the farmer, by him, when talking to

others. It could of course be the mother of the writer. From the 1881 census this seems unlikely.

At the end of January there is a Memorandum:

Dimensions of hay stack Width 12ft, Height 8ft 3in. Length 23 ft. This gives it a volume of 2277 cubic feet or 253 cubic yards, if it were a cuboid in shape. It is unlikely to have been flat topped and would possibly have been shaped so that it looked like a building with a sloping roof, the peak of which was 8ft 3in. This would have reduced the total volume. The other possibility is that the height is to the eaves, thus the sloping top would add to the overall volume. Again we have no way of knowing what the writer meant. Even so it was a fairly large stack, possibly containing up to 200 tons of hay. There are various references to bringing hay in from the stack, presumably into a loft above the animal housing, thus allowing easier feeding of the housed stock.

One must remember that bales of hay were not common at this period, unless they were produced by hand. They were produced by cutting round a section of a stack, the size of the bale required, with a 'Hay Knife' and binding the resulting cube with wires. These bales were usually made when hay was being sold off the farm. It made the transportation of the hay easier than when it was loose. For moving hay around the farm, more often than not, the hay was forked from the stack, after a section was cut with a hay knife and onto a cart and moved to where it was needed.

There is also mention of the purchase of hay from outside sources on 2nd April. It is purchased by the wagonload. The price is given per stone, so it is possible to calculate the weight per

wagonload. Price per stone is 4.5d. The cost of a wagonload is given as £6/18s or £6.9 (£244.95) This gives the weight of the load as 2 tons 6 cwt or 2.3 tons. Usually a wagon is a vehicle with at least four wheels, pulled by two horses or more, whereas a cart usually has two wheels, and was pulled by one horse. By the end of the month the price being paid had risen to 6d, 7d and 8d per stone, on different occasions This is usual as supplies run out at the end of the season.

If the farm was advanced technically, they could have had the machinery run by a steam engine at this time or they may have had an elevator and other 'barn machinery' run by a horse-driven mechanism in a 'round house' or 'gin-gan'. There is mention of buying and setting up a 'new boiler' towards the end of the year. Again we do not know to what use the boiler was put. It could have been the source of steam for an engine. It could have been used to produce hot water, for various farm and or domestic uses. It could have been used for cooking potatoes or other roots for feeding to stock.

The first ewe lambed on 27th March. This date is typical of lambing times for many farms in various northern areas. It is timed to coincide with the growth of early grass, which has always been an economic decision, to provide good grazing for the ewes and hence allowing them to produce sufficient milk for the lambs. It saves on supplementary feeding. Later in the year the sheep were 'cleaned' (had adhering dung cut off the wool around the rear end), then washed and finally clipped some time later.

From various entries it can be seen that the farm grew turnips, mangolds, oats, barley and potatoes as well as areas of

'seeds'. The use of fallowing is mentioned a number of times, showing that the process was used as a means of weed control. There were also meadows and pastures that were treated in various ways with manure and fertilizers.

Many common farm operations are catalogued in the diary and it is possible to work out the work calendar for the year of 1892. This is beyond the scope of this article. There are also entries showing various purchases and other transactions that are necessary for the continuation of a farm business. Purchases of implements such as ploughs of various types and harrows are recorded. One of the implements purchased is called a 'stitching-harrow'. Its function was to control weeds and the size of 'ridges' on which root crops were grown with the consequential improvement in crop growth. The use of harrows continued through June and most of July. The cleaning and weeding of turnips continued into August.

One other noted entry is that they replaced mangold plants in the gaps left in the rows possibly due to poor germination of the first sowings or poor singling!

A "suit of horse clothing", presumably a full set of harness was ordered from a supplier in Kendal. There are other mentions of purchase of pieces of harness such as head collars. Also a waterproof coat was purchased for one of the stallions. It would be used when the stallion was travelling around the district to serve other farmers' mares. Seed potatoes were purchased from an outside source and 'ware' potatoes were sold to the Co-op in Carnforth.

There are entries indicating that the farm enterprise included the fattening of cattle for sale. Above all the horses were the main enterprise of the farm. It appears that the means of cutting grass for hay was in the process of change. Various entries tell of the use of scythes to cut grass. *1st July. Started Hay time* *4th July Mowing bank tops.* *5 July Finished mowing bank tops with scythes.* There are other entries that show the existence of mowing machines. *29th June. Took mowing machine to Carnforth smithy.* *2nd July Fetched mowing machine from Carnforth smithy.* *5th July. Began mowing with machine in Keer Meadow.* They finished mowing this field the next day. The acreage given in the list at the front of the diary is 3 acres 2 roods 2 poles. The spelling of the meadow's name is also different, 'Keir' as against 'Keer' in the entry. By the 9th July they were working the hay in the Keer meadow. 15 loads of hay were carted from Keer Meadow on 11th July. They had made and carted the hay in six days, which must have been an indication of very good 'Hay Weather'. Modern farmers would be pleased with such conditions to win what little hay they now make.

Some of the fields are obvious from the listing at the beginning of the diary, but some are not so obvious. For example there are a number of entries referring to *Dudley* which does not appear in the listing. There are fields called *Near Mill Head about*, *Far Mill head about*, and *Mill Head* with a combined acreage of about 20 acres. "Dudley" was the name given locally to the Mill Head to accommodate the workers from the Midlands who came to work at the Iron Works at Carnforth. The various entries that mention *Dudley* seem to indicate that the land was sown to grass that was cut for grass seed production as well as hay. *Saturday 9th July. Began mowing seeds at Dudley. Monday*

11th July 6 Carts of seeds from Dudley. Finished mowing Dudley field. Wednesday 12th July (Tuesday or 13th). Fetched 4 carts hay from Dudley. Over the rest of the week 30 loads of hay were carted off *Dudley* including the 'rakings'. There is also an indication that the grass was put into 'cocks' as a way of protecting them from the weather. *Friday 15th July. Cocking hay in Caley Land.* There were four field names containing the word "caley" amounting to about 11 acres approximately. 26 loads were brought out of Caley Land, a yield of 2.37 loads per acre. Another field called Big Meadow acreage 15.5 acres. The yield is difficult to calculate, as the entries are somewhat confusing.

Monday 18th July Began cutting Big Meadow

Thursday 21st July Strewing part of Big Meadow

Friday 22nd July Cutting grass in Big Meadow

Saturday 23rd July 11 Loads from Big Meadow. Finished mowing.

Monday 25 July Carted 25 loads hay out of Big Meadow. Finished stacks with 50 loads.

Tuesday 26th July Finished housing Big Meadow except rakings. 24 carts.

Wednesday 27th July Carted 3 loads rakings out of Big Meadow Finished haytime 171 carts.

It could be possible to calculate the weight of hay produced on the farm, if it were possible to find what was meant by a load of hay, and from what acreage it was produced. There seems to have been an interchange between "loads" and "Carts", which adds to the confusion.

As soon as haytime was finished, work on other crops and farm maintenance followed immediately. *Thursday 28th July.*

Stitch-harrowing turnips. Cleaning ditches out. Finished stacks out. Stitch-harrowing as mentioned above, consisted of the use of a special type of harrow that was designed to run across and between ridges upon which the turnip seed was sown. *Finished out* the stacks refers to the need to build up the stack ridge to enable it to be thatched after the hay in the stack had settled. The settling could be due to the weight of hay gradually forcing out any trapped air, or because the stack had 'heated' due to natural fermentation producing heat and reducing the volume of hay on the stack. The fermentation could have been due to improperly 'cured' or partially dried grass being incorporated in the stack. Also it could have been due to rainwater seepage into the stack setting up conditions suitable for growth of mould and bacteria.

The work on the turnips and clearing ditches continued until the middle of August. Some change of task was introduced for the workers by having them "Cutting thistles". Wilkinson, presumably one of the workers, thatched part of the clover stack on Monday 15th August. Thatching continued for a number of days, presumably until the stacks were all thatched.

Saturday 20th August Went to Kendal and Lancaster. This involves a round journey of 15 miles to Kendal from Warton, and about 22 miles from Kendal to Lancaster and 7 miles from Lancaster to Warton. A total of at least 42 miles. If he rode a horse or had a light gig I should imagine he could not have done the journey in less than 5 hours. The horse would have been somewhat overstretched? Did he use the train? Which station did he go from, Carnforth? It would be possible to work this out from timetables. But why did he go, what did he do and how long did he spend in Kendal and Lancaster. What time did he leave and

what time did he return? All questions raised by a simple entry in a diary. A further avenue for research?

The beginning of autumn was the season for agricultural shows, 9th August Whinmarleigh, 16th Blackpool, 24th Lancaster, 25th Skipton, 26th Barrow. 16th September K'by show (presumably Kirby Lonsdale). 20th Ulverston, 22nd Kendal. Most of the shows seemed to only occupy one day, but the entries for 4th and 5th October show that they went to Chesterfield on the 4th to get ready for the show on the 5th. The entry finishes - *got back at night.*

The more usual work on the farm is recorded, showing that despite the travels of the "Boss" and Edmond, away from Warton, normal everyday work continued. *Monday 22nd August. Cleaning ditches and turnips. Took 12 lambs to auction mart not sold.* Presumably the auction mart was Carnforth, and the trade for lambs must have been poor enough for William Sn. to have brought them home again. I am sure that a hired man or even a son would not have made such a decision. During the last week of August there were 5 days when a man and a horse were *all day for the township* also an additional *one half day*. Part of the continued commitment of resources to the good of the township. A social duty of an important citizen of the township.

On Monday 29th August harvesting began. *Began cutting oats behind the house with scythes. Very heavy rain.* The weather seemed to be against the farmer even then! *Tuesday 30th August. Trimming hedges. Ploughing headlands. Heavy showers.* Obviously heavy showers did not stop some work, but it must have stopped harvesting. The showers continued on the 31st. 1st

September the weather apparently allowed corn to be cut with scythes. By the 2nd it was possible to begin *mowing grain with machine*. They were also *opening out in Caley land*. Mowing with machine would seem to indicate that the machine being used was the same as was used to mow grass earlier in the season, not a 'binder'. It is not at all clear if a binder was available and in use. Later entries say *reaping* rather than mowing. There is no indication of the necessary labour for hand tying of sheaves being available or being used. The corn crops mentioned specifically are barley and oats. There is no mention of wheat.

The cut corn stayed in the field for 15 days (2nd to 17th Sept.) Presumably in 'stooks' of 6 to 8 sheaves, to allow time to dry out to a stage suitable for stacking. One saying about the length of time corn should stay in stook was that they should hear "three sets of church bells". A minimum of fourteen days. The oat stacks were thatched on 20th September. The diary records this day as *very wet*. It seems odd to thatch a stack when this type of weather was about. It could have been the thought that the sooner it is covered the less damage may occur. There is mention of *wet in the morning* but with the proviso *fine after 9 a.m.*, in another entry. What time constituted morning? Potatoes were a crop grown on the farm and harvesting of them began on Friday 7th October. The entry for Wednesday 12th October indicates that the potato and fruit harvests are ended. The only earlier mention of fruit is on the 24th September that records *getting pears*.

During the harvest season the business of livestock farming went on, lambs were being sold at market, horses came and went, calving cows were sold "with the calf back".

Everyday tasks of maintenance proceeded, some of them not particularly pleasant. *Gas tarring sleepers, tarring loose box in paddock, cleaned out pig sty, collecting barrel of gas tar from Burton, cleaning loose boxes, carting manure into Nicholson Paddock.*

By the middle of October the farming year was progressing towards winter. Mangolds were being pulled and carted for winter stock feed. Trashing days were recorded. Oats were being cleaned in preparation for feeding stuffs. 40 lambs, 20 gimmers and 20 tups were sold. This indicated that a considerable number of sheep must have been part of the livestock on the farm. Gimmers are second season sheep that have not had a lamb. Tups are male sheep used for breeding. To have 20 tups for sale must indicate that one of the sheep enterprises must have been the breeding and rearing of tup lambs for sale. This was, and still is, a specialised type of sheep husbandry that requires considerable expertise, and good stock.

One of the typical social and neighbourly actions of the farming year is recorded in the entry for Thursday 27th October. *Sent 5 men to help Mr. Newby threshing and one horse.* The following day records that the 5 men and a horse were at Mr. Newby's till 10 o'clock a.m. This practice of sending workers from the surrounding farms to a 'threshing day' at a particular farm was common until the complete introduction of 'combines' in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Even then in the remoter areas where corn acreages were not large and farms small, threshing days continued for much longer. The use of contractors in such areas saw the end of the travelling threshing machines. The results of threshing days at Whinnerah's according to various entries in

November were transported to the station. Apparently 120 loads of barley were so disposed of. Barley was also taken to Bolton Mill on the 26th, where it was ground and collected on the 30th.

During the rest of November and December the usual winter jobs were carried out pulling and carting turnips, carting manure to various fields, bringing in cattle and horses during the night, as the weather got colder. Riddling potatoes appears on the 3rd December. The sale of lambs at auction and to a private buyer occurs during the month. By 5th December there was 3 ins of snow reported and the sheep were being given turnips to supplement the grazing. The sheep that had been 'boarded' from Paint Mines for 5 weeks and 3 days were returned home, and it is recorded that they had the use of the ram, turnips and straw. There is a note on the 11th that *Mr. Croft was paid for turnip cutter*. This indicated that the turnips fed to the stock were prepared by chopping them into pieces, rather than feeding them whole. On the 31st it is recorded *Put sheep on turnips*, indicating that sheep were also folded on turnips as mentioned earlier in the year.

There are a number of entries concerning 'turf'. It seems that the farm must have had turbary rights on one of the local 'mosses', and that the turf was used, presumably as fuel.

Preparations for Christmas are mentioned on the 20th *plucked geese*. Also on 20th *Got cheque for barley from Hull & Sons £96 (£3485 at present values)* This gives a price per load of 16d. (5.68p) or at present values £29. Sunday 25th December Warton Church re-opened after re-seating. It may be assumed that William Sn. and the rest of the family attended. Other Sunday

entries refer to church attendance or the people who were visiting or where the family visited.

So the year drew to a close and the family continued its life at Warton Hall Farm.

There is still a considerable amount of social history to be extracted from the diary. Many persons are named and it would be interesting to trace them and build up a picture of the social life of Warton and district in the late 1890's. But that is for another day and possibly another researcher.

Brigadier Tryon Wilson - Honorary Vice President 1980-2001

The members of the MLHS will have been saddened to learn of the death of Brigadier Tryon Wilson in April. He had been one of our Honorary Vice Presidents for all of the society's 21 years life. Although we did not see him at our winter meetings, he was amongst our keenest supporters.

At the time of our inauguration in 1980, he invited us to Dallam, his private home and the seat of the Lords of the Manor of Silverdale. The first thing to meet us were tables beautifully set out with old books, documents, charters, maps - a marvellous display of archives which he had brought together from various record offices and laid out just for us. It must have taken many hours of planning and hard work.

Then, on our tenth anniversary we were invited back. Many members will recall the gentle stroll, the Brigadier leading the way from room to room, everywhere permeated with the scent of wild garlic! No display of archives this time, but a carefully orchestrated route which ended in a large room lined with trestle

tables on which was spread a buffet fit for royalty. Completely unexpected, and so generous. Equally unexpected were the donations, always generous, always with a letter of encouragement in our research and thanks for his magazines.

We, like so many other local groups and charities, have lost a good friend, and shall miss his interest in our life as a society. We responded to the wishes of his family by donating one of our books, in his memory, to Dallam School Library.

Jean Chatterley

Professor Peter Yates.

Members will be very saddened to learn that we have also lost Peter Yates, who died recently. He was a very loyal member of the society, and will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences go to his wife, May.

Chairman's Message

This year the Society will be served by a largely new committee - new in the sense that many of the members of last year's committee have had to stand down because they had completed the three years' service allowed under the constitution. We would like to take the opportunity to send greetings to all members of the Society and to hope that if anyone feels there is anything we could be managing better they will tell us so.

Programme 2001-2002 (Meetings held in Yealand Village Hall, 7.30pm)

2001

September 13th - Dr. Elizabeth Roberts. Health: The Patient's View.

October 11th - Dr. Rob David. The International Ice Trade and Northern Economy 1830-1918.

November 8th - Mrs. Janet Thompson. Mary Wakefield: Her Life and Music.

December 6th - (FIRST THURSDAY) Lissie Jones. Lady of the Garrison: Charlotte, Countess of Derby defends Lathom House in the Civil War.

2002

January 10th - Dr. Mary Higham. Medieval Horse-rearing.

February 14th - Walter M. Johnston. Thomas Mawson: Landscape Architect.

March 14th - Dr. Angus Winchester. Parish Boundaries and Local History.