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2004-2005, No.2

The Mourholme Magazine of Local History



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

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PRICES, WAGES AND POPULATIONS IN THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY: A STUDY OF WARTON
PARISH.

Geoffrey Gregory

Part II. Village Populations

Throughout the nineteenth century Warton parish remained essentially agricultural with a high proportion of the population engaged in farming and its dependent crafts, trades and businesses. The advent of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway in 1846 and subsequent rail links with Furness and Yorkshire brought about a significant change in goods transport, previously obliged to use road and canal routes. As a result the latter half of the century saw the development of Carnforth as a railway centre. There followed the setting up of the Carnforth Haematite Iron Company (1866), and the continued prosperity of existing mining and quarrying ventures in the area. The manner in which these changes manifested themselves in terms of village populations is the subject of this article.

The source of the data, is of course, the decennial census returns 1801 to 1901. The first two returns (1801-1811), which were the first returns made in England, contained only basic information on village populations. No specific record was made for example of the age of individuals in the villages and the returns were made by the local clergyman and by the overseers of the poor or 'other substantial householders'. Moreover, interviews took place on a specified date, or as soon as possible thereafter - it was only after 1831 that the single date or 'snapshot' approach (used to the present date) was

introduced. See Higgs (1989) for further details. In the 1821 and 1831 returns, ages were recorded if possible and convenient. From 1841 ages were universally recorded, initially rounded down in bands of five years when the individual was 14 years or older.

Data have been analysed from census returns for the parishes of Borwick, Carnforth, Priest Hutton, Silverdale, Warton-cum-Lindeth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne. To simplify the presentation the data from the two Yealands have been merged. Justification for this lies in the statistical similarities of the two villages as can be seen in Figure 1 (page three), where populations can be seen to follow similar patterns.

For the technically minded- a Chi-square goodness of fit test on these figures, although not strictly valid because of the lack of independence of census data from one decade to the next, shows that these two graphs do not differ significantly in census to census variations. [Chi square (10 degrees of freedom) = 8.5]

A plot of the total populations of each village as recorded in the censuses between 1801 and 1901 is presented in Figure 2 (page 4). The picture here is clear; whereas the populations of the villages of Borwick, Priest Hutton and the Yealands remain at stable levels throughout the century, something quite dramatic happened in Warton-cum-Lindeth, between the 1861 and 1871 censuses. A rather less dramatic change occurred in Silverdale over the final thirty years of the century.

Figure 1
Population v Census Year

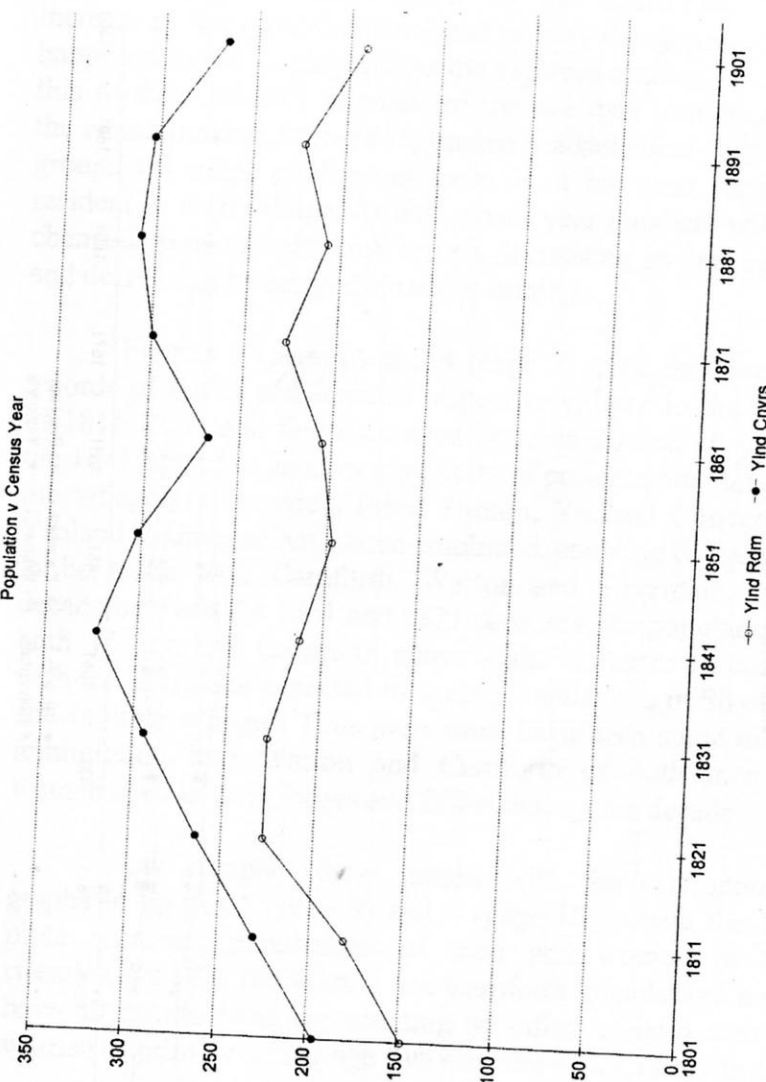
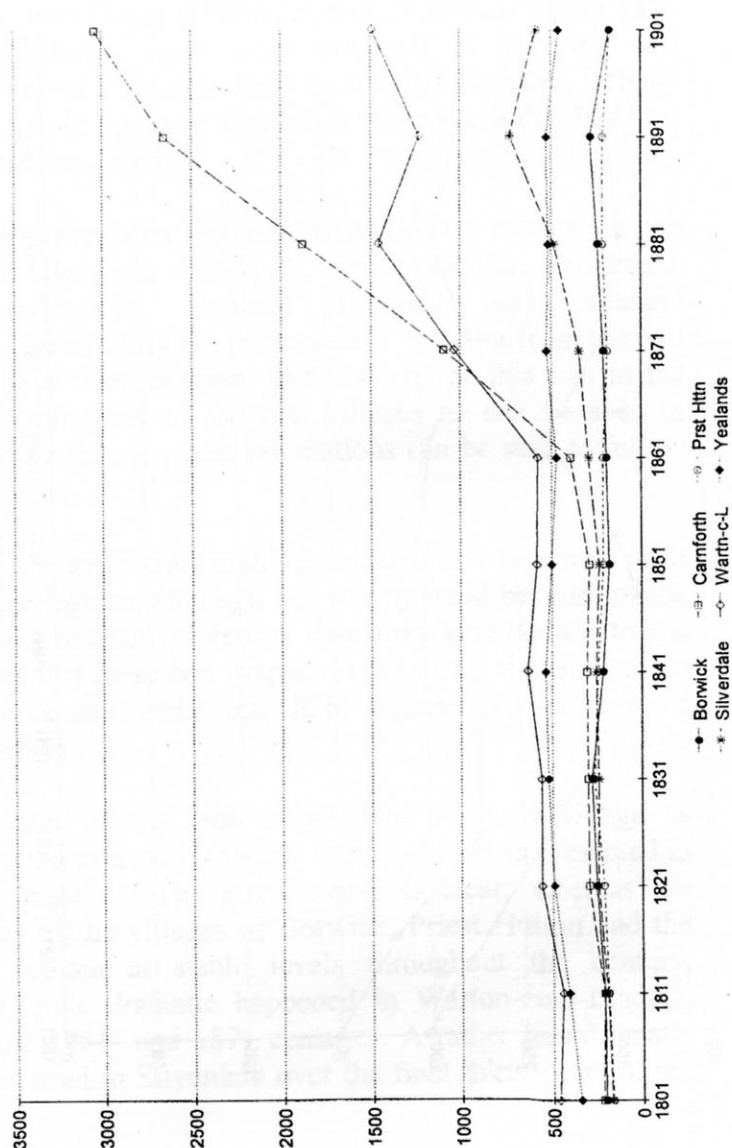


Figure 2
Village populations v Census year



Clearly the explanation of the Carnforth/ Warton increase is the rapid industrial and railway development which happened in the locality during the eighteen-sixties. To explore this further, use may be made of the age data introduced into the census returns from 1841, tracing the statistical 'history' of groups of males or females born in a ten year range and resident in each village. At any census year numbers will have changed from the previous census, increasing by immigration and decreasing by emigration and mortality.

Figures 3 (page 6) and 4 (page 7) trace the numerical records of males and females respectively, born in the decade of 1811-1821, and therefore aged between 20 and 30 years at the 1841 census. Again for simplicity of presentation, data from the villages of Borwick, Priest Hutton, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne have been combined, enabling comparisons to be made with Carnforth, Warton and Silverdale. In the decade between the 1861 and 1871 censuses, the populations of both Warton and Carnforth show slight increases in contrast with the decreases expected in ageing populations in Silverdale and in other villages. Thus there must have been some modest immigration into Warton and Carnforth of both men and women aged in their forties and fifties during this decade.

Now compare these graphs with the corresponding graphs in figures 5 (page 9) and 6 (page 10), where the 1861 plots represent populations of men and women in their twenties. By 1871 the Warton and Carnforth population levels have all but doubled, representing an influx of both men and women of prime working age (whether the women were in fact

Figure 3
Census data-males born 1811-21

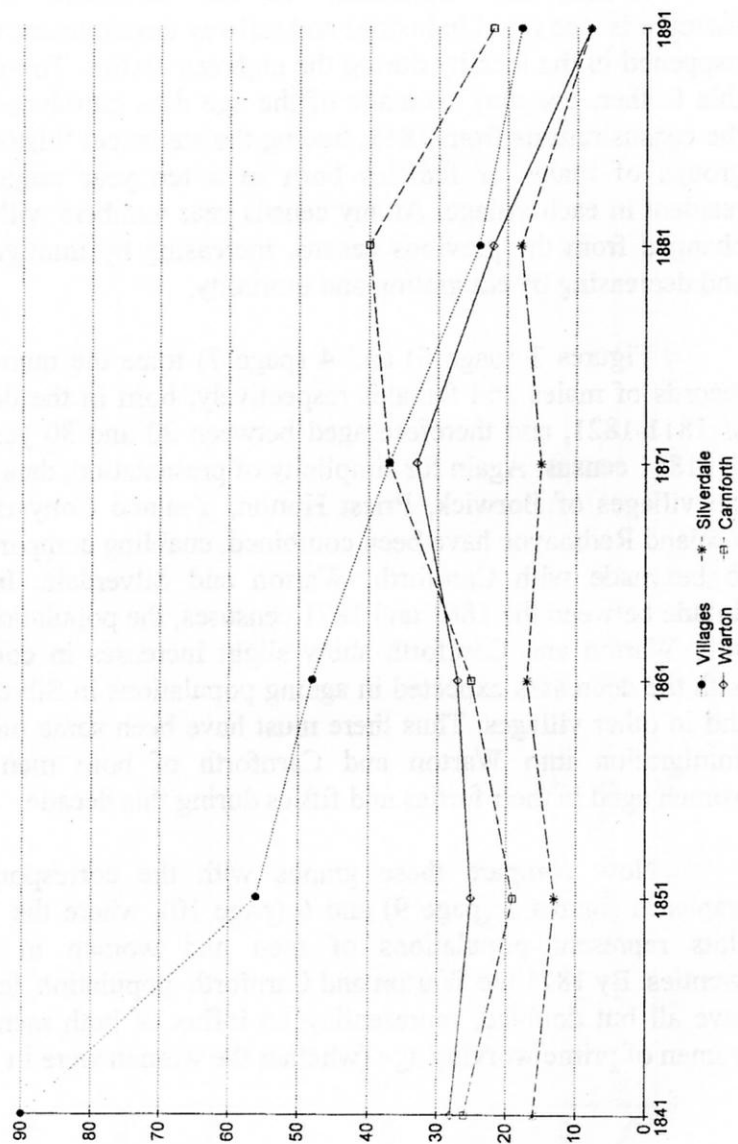
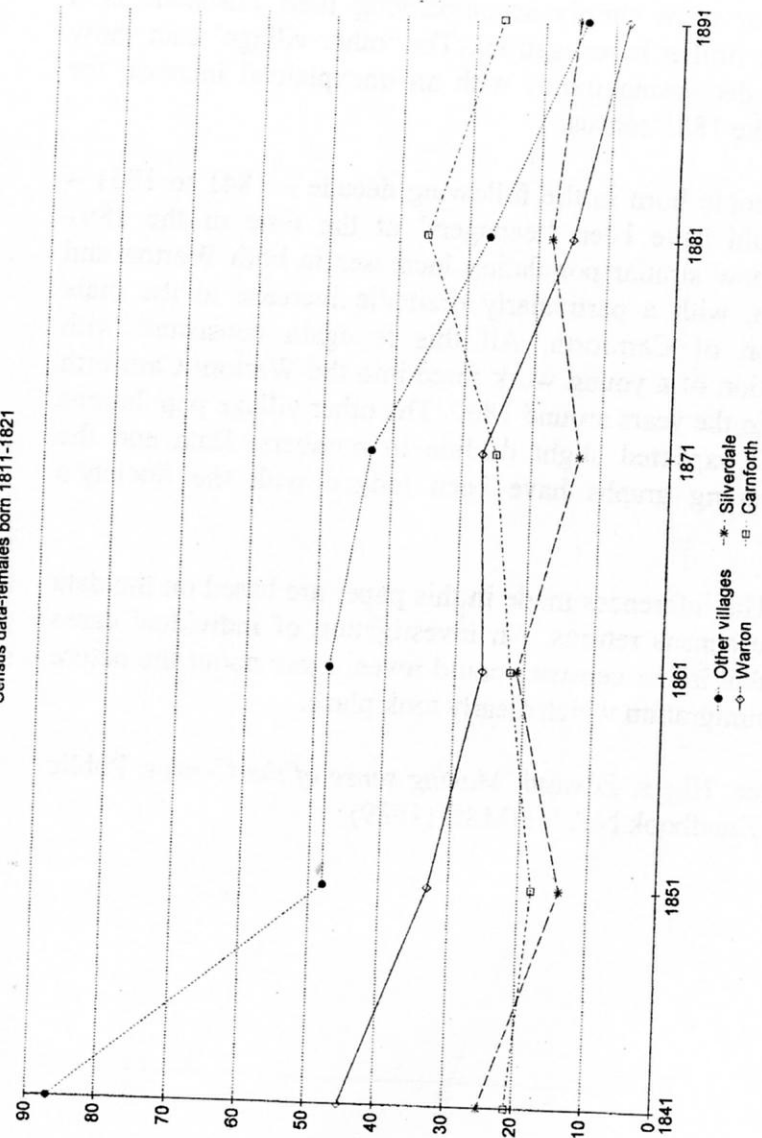


Figure 4
Census data-females born 1811-1821



working or were simply accompanying their husbands is a matter for further investigation). The 'other village' data show generally decreasing trends with an unexplained increase for males at the 1881 census.

People born in the following decade – 1841 to 1851 – who would have been 'teenagers' at the time of the 1861 census show similar population increases in both Warton and Carnforth, with a particularly dramatic increase in the male population of Carnforth. All this is again consistent with immigration of a young work force into the Warton/ Carnforth villages in the years around 1860. The other village populations show the expected slight decline in numbers. Data and the corresponding graphs have been lodged with the Society's archives.

The inferences made in this paper are based on the data from the census returns. An investigation of individual cases identifiable in the censuses could reveal more about the nature of the immigration which clearly took place.

Reference: Higgs, Edward, *Making sense of the Census*, Public Record Handbook No23, HMSO (1989)

Figure 5
Census data-males born 1831-41

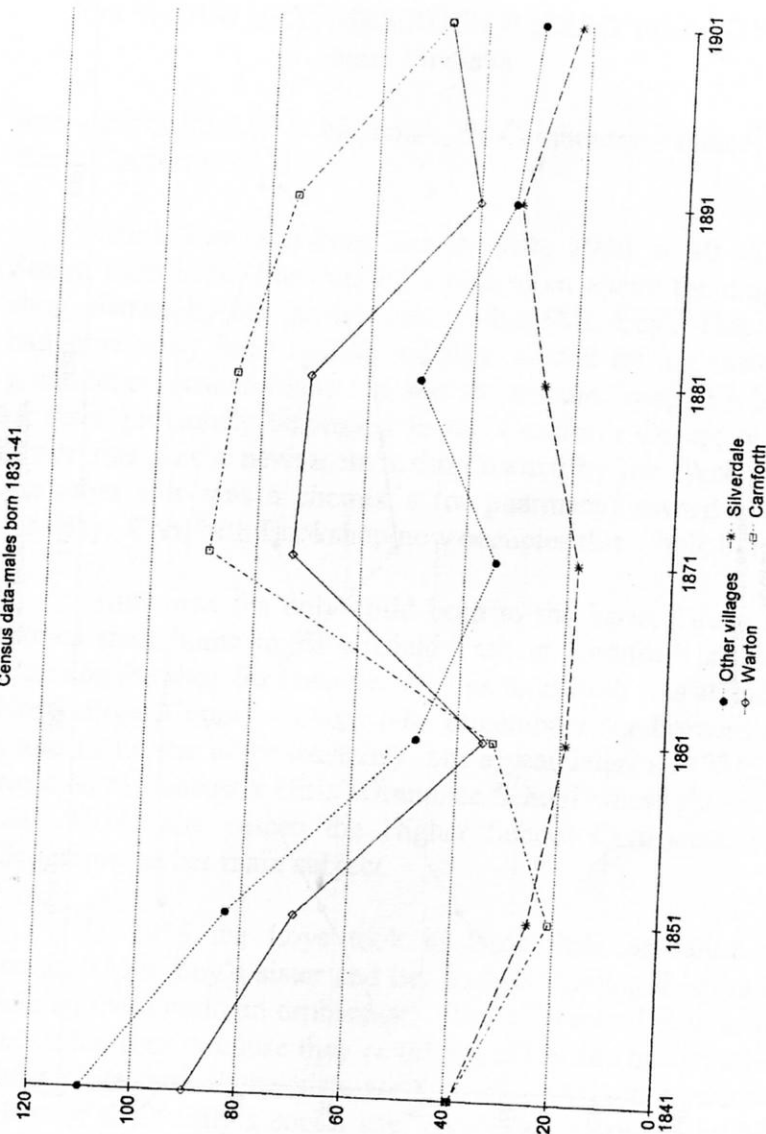
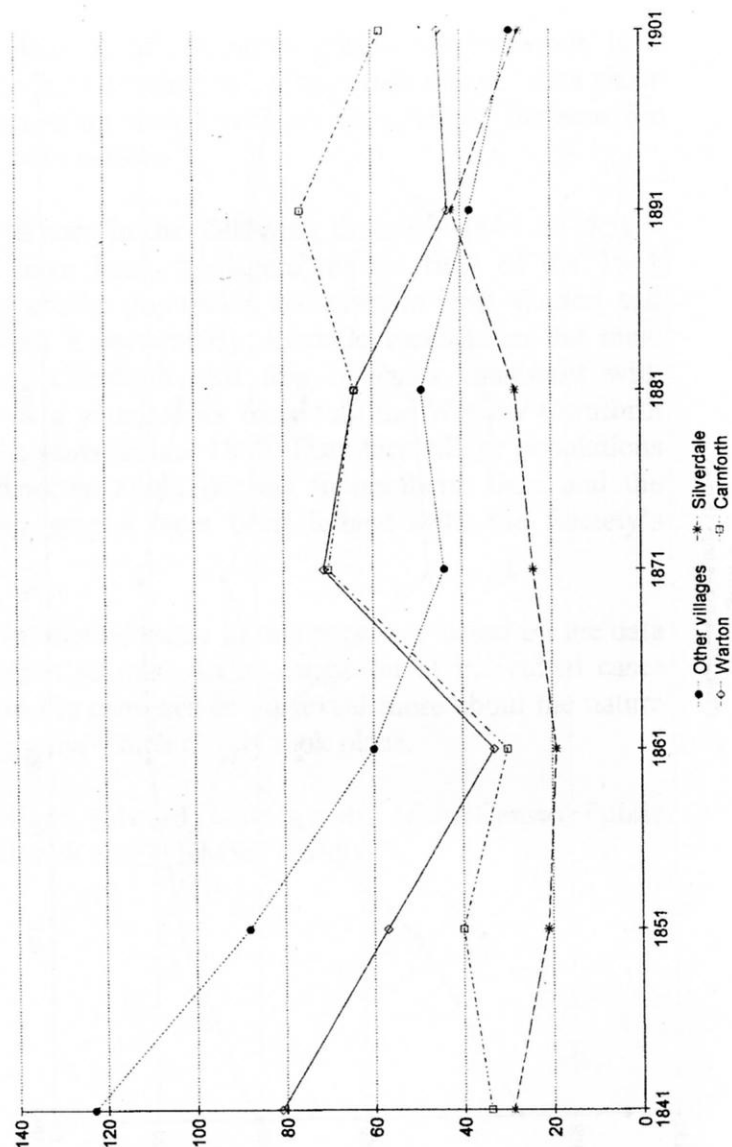


Figure 6
Census data- females born 1831-41



ORAL HISTORY: MRS. RUTH BADLEY NEE LOY John Findlater

Interview on 25.2.95 at her home, 59 Cambourne Terrace, Crag Bank, Canforth.

Ruth Loy was born March 20th, 1920 at 40 Market Street, Carnforth. She was born in a room above the draper's shop, owned by her mother and father (Mr. Loy). This shop had previously been rented and then owned by her maternal grandfather, Joshua Sharp. It was the middle shop in a block of three previously belonging to the Carnforth Co-op; on the lower side was a newsagent's shop owned by Mr. Weeks; on the other side was a chemist's (or pharmacy) owned by Mr Smalley. Carnforth Bookshop now occupies this whole block.

Ruth was the only child born to the Loys. The family moved their home to Bloomfield Park in Carnforth in 1930, retaining the shop for business. By this time Ruth was attending North Road Council School (she remembers Mr Barnard and could name the other teachers) but a year later, in 1931, she went on to Lancaster Girls' Grammar School where she stayed until 1938. She passed the Higher School Certificate, with Geography as her main subject.

In 1935 the Loys took in three little orphaned girl cousins (Mrs. Loy's sister and her husband having died) rather than let them go to an orphanage. They all moved back to live above the shop because they could not afford the house; after a little while two of the girls went to live with other relatives. Most of the family's social life, carefully supervised by Mrs.

Loy, revolved around the Congregational Church, especially Saturday night socials, doing plays and sometimes a little dancing and Sunday School ; Mr Buxton was the first minister she remembers and he was followed by Mr Towers returning for a second spell. There were happy times wandering on Warton Crag; when Mr Loy bought a car in 1925 they would go to the Lakes on Bank Holidays and the family managed one week on holiday at Rhyl but otherwise having the shop kept them at home. She was allowed to go to the Roxy Cinema in Carnforth on a Saturday afternoon. This cinema was run by Mr. Weeks, Margaret Garth's father (see Mourholme Magazine 2001-2002, No 3), the newsagent.

Ruth has a clear memory of attending a ceremony, at a very young age, but it can't have been the War Memorial unveiling because that occurred in 1920 according to John Easter Roberts, a local historian (*Old Carnforth*). She also remembers very well observing activity at the Ironworks, though she could not see it from home, from Scotland Road she could see bogies being run to the top of the furnaces and tipped with flames leaping upwards. She does not remember much pollution from the Ironworks though plainly it must have been considerable. Perhaps because it paled beside the awful smell from the cattle auction market lying immediately behind the shop in the area now occupied by Booth's supermarket.

Her especial friend was Mary Cornthwaite of Cockle Hall (beyond Thwaite Gate on the opposite side of the canal to Crag Bank), her grandfather, Mr Ireland's farm. This brought back memories of tramps being frequent in the area; farmer Ireland was quite willing to allow them to sleep in his barns but

first put his hand out demanding they surrender any matches they had. Others friends and playmates included Margaret Weeks (later Garth see magazine), whom she had known all her life, who became active in the Guides (run by Mrs Ruth Jackson, Dr. Edward Jackson's wife) but Ruth never joined; Marion Scott (later Chalmers), who went off to Barrow during the war years and was active in the Congregational church, being one of the 'main ones' in many plays there; Marie Dearden (later Gregson) a butcher's daughter; the Bristow girls, whose father was the Co-op butcher; and Marion Wilkinson (now Russell -see Mourholme magazine 2003-4, No 2) slightly older and to be honest somewhat intimidating. From those days she remembers best, Ernie Just, the plumber, 'old' Dr Jackson, Dr Edward (Jackson) and his wife Ruth (an American lady), 'Bubbles' and 'Chitty' Jackson (nieces of Dr Edward), as well as 'Butcher' Williams and Harry Himsforth, her father's cousin, who was a grocer at the bottom of New Street. The Queen's Hotel (situated next to the shop block on the lower side of Market Street) publican, whose name escapes her, was very kind and good to the children round about but he was not much liked by people in the town for some unknown reason. He let the children have bonfires there.

In 1938 Ruth went from school to college ; to Edgehill Teacher Training College at Ormskirk, but a year later, when the place was taken for use as a hospital because of the war, the college students were evacuated to Bingley Teacher Training College in West Yorkshire for the second year. She then took up a job teaching in Manchester. Then she married George Badley, a boy she had known from childhood, at the

Congregational Church. George had trained in Manchester for the ministry.

Ruth and George went to live at Great Harwood where he had been appointed congregational minister. They were there until 1960 – 17 years in all. She had two children there and taught a little (supply teaching) but admits that she felt inadequate as a minister's wife. The post was not very well-paid so the family moved back to live at the Market Street shop and George went to teach R.E. and sport at Morecambe Grammar School. Mrs. Loy, Ruth's mother had died in 1940, but her father was still alive. The shop was being run by 'Dot' Woods until she married, then by Alice Ireland and Betty Sutton. Ruth did not like doing the shop and took up a teaching post at the Ridge school in Lancaster, which was a rough area but the children were 'lovely'. In 1964 Ruth had a third child, Rachel, but quite soon afterwards got back to teaching leaving much of Rachel's care to her shop assistants.

Ruth felt somehow a little isolated living above the shop in Market Street. She rather thinks that the railway community formed a rather separate group in the town, as had the Ironworkers in the earlier part of her life. These latter people on the whole seemed rather poorer folk and were notable for their bad language.

George died rather suddenly in 1988 and Ruth moved to her present home in Crag Bank.

THE HARTLEY FAMILY

Malcolm Hartley

The firm of John Hartley & Co., of Warton Parish was built up and disappeared in just over 100 years. The reason for the decline and final demise has never been clear but it seems likely that the decline, as the rise, of the business was linked to local economics. In the same period Carnforth boomed and then suffered depression.

Early family and the Start of the Business

John Hartley (Junior-1792-1853), together with Richard Simm, is understood to have started a grocery business in the Kendal area. The date of the establishment of John Hartley & Co. is noted on the firm's headed notepaper as 1825.

The business moved into the Carnforth area in about 1850; by then, it is said, already being well known as 'Kendal's Bakers and Confectioners'. They supposedly did a large trade, supplying food for gangs of men employed in extending the Midland Railway and converting the Furness line from single to double track. John Hartley, the son of the founder of the business, is understood to have previously represented Thomas Robinson, Wholesale Grocers, an old Kendal firm, and is thought to have taken over the business in 1860. If this were so, he would have been only 19 years old. In 1863, when much of present Carnforth was green fields, premises were taken near the small railway 'halt' on the site of the present railway station. A move to Millhead (Warton) followed with expansion of the business and development of the station.

In this period, the second half of the 19th century, Carnforth and Millhead were transformed not only by the construction and employment opportunities on the railway but by the development of the Ironworks. Initially smaller than Warton, the population of Carnforth grew from 294 in 1851 to 3041 in 1901. A quiet rural area became a centre of communication and industry, with attendant high-density terrace housing and despoliation of the countryside with quarrying, gravel pits and slag tips.

In 1872 the first hundred terrace houses for the Ironworks had been completed in Millhead and by the 1880s, John Hartley Co. had built a large shop, warehouse and bakery just north of the River Keer, with another shop at the crossroads in Carnforth. Both were imposing three storey stone buildings with rounded frontages typical of Carnforth architecture. The family residence, Millhead House was integral with the commercial premises. The front door to the house was onto Mill Lane the Carnforth/Warton road with an archway also going between the shop and bakery through to a courtyard and the residential part. There was also a gate into the garden from Mill Lane leading to the coach house and servants' quarters. A large room known as the pillar room on the first floor spread from the house over the shop. The property as a whole took up the whole block to Back Albert Street and up to what is now Rupert Street.

In the early 1900s a plot above the gravel pit at Millhead and known as Great Mill Heads, was developed by John W. Hartley of the next generation. Four properties were built at Park View and taken over by the family. My

grandfather William Henry Hartley lived at number 4 and although I do not remember him, I visited the house often when Tony (Mourholme Magazine 2002-2003, No 3) and Marion Chalmers lived there.

The stables were in the centre of Millhead, behind Stainton Street and the family also had a piggery, which seems to have caused some problems. A previous Mourholme Magazine has told how in 1890, Edward Barton took up with the Rural Sanitary Authority, the 'nuisance' of badly drained privies and some 20 pigs kept by Mr Hartley. Mr Barton argued that the Lancaster Banking Company, who owned the land where the pigs were kept, should put their property in good condition, especially as this was "needed as an example to others". This may have been instrumental in moving the piggery from Carlisle Terrace to Kellet Road, Carnforth, where Mary (May) Hartley remembers it.

An article 'Millhead' by Harry Bennet in 'Keer to Kent' (March/June 1990), the magazine of the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust, records that:

The Hartley family dominated Millhead in a rather unique way. John Hartley, a strict Quaker grocer and baker arrived here in 1825 and prospered into property, which included gravel pits. At the peak of his business his descendants employed scores of workers, from confectioners, bakers, shop assistants and errand boys to quarrymen, drivers and even two men who went round the farms and cottages between the rivers Kent, Keer and Lune, drumming up business and taking orders; in those pre-motor days they went on foot and cycle, or by train. In the

middle of the village were Hartley's Stables with up to 20 horses.

Inclusion of the Family in the Business

John Hartley, Jnr., had married Mary For(r)est in 1817. The name Forrest appears in future as a second forename, John and Mary had three children all of whom were eventually brought into the business – Wilson b.1839, John b.1841 and George b.1851. Wilson was a teacher before entering the business. By the early 1900s he was described by a local resident (Memoirs of Harry Bennet: Chapter 3), "Wilson, who reminded me of Abraham Lincoln with a wispy white beard, was always muttering as he walked along with quick short steps". George, the youngest (the lil' lad), was also brought into the business at a later stage. John and George married the Simm sisters, presumed to be daughters of Richard Simm, co-founder of the business. The family were Quakers and are buried at the Yealand Meeting House.

It was then the children of John Hartley and Margaret Ann Simm who continued in the business. In the 1881 census, John Hartley aged 40 from Kendal is named as the household head and 'senior partner' employing 17 hands. His wife was born in Orton and they had three sons and two daughters (one son had died) ages from 14 to 3 years. There were two apprentices, two servants, a domestic servant and a 24 year old nurse girl. They were again a Quaker family and most of the children are buried at Yealand Meeting House. A tapestry 'CHRIST blessing the infants' was worked by Margaret Ann Simm in 1857 and is still in the family.

Richard was born in 1869 and is believed to have only lived for a month or so. Mary (May) also did not live long, dying of tuberculosis at the age of 17.

The eldest son John Wilson Hartley may have done the buying for the grocery side of the business but was certainly in charge of the gravel pits, which in later years still traded as John W. Hartley when managed by the Baker family (Mourholme Magazine 2003-2004, No 3). He married Caroline Cornelia ('Carrie') Moore from the Isle of Man and lived in Millhead House. Carrie had been brought up by her uncle in the Isle of Man before coming to England and doing Christian evangelistic work.

Also involved in the business was the younger brother, my grandfather, William Henry Hartley. In 1896 he married Clara Eleanor Coupland, the daughter of a bobbin manufacturer from Tatham, but she died young and several years after her death William Henry remarried this time to Rose Wilkinson. He managed the staff and accounts of the grocery side of the business and also operated the Carnforth Transport Company. Homes were at 3 Oxford Street, Carnforth; Corduff House, Coach road, Warton and then 4 Park View, Millhead. He had a built up shoe because of an injury falling off a truck in the First World War and in later years he suffered from Bright's (kidney) disease.

Little is known of the other children. George Forrest (Suckie) is said to have had mental problems after falling down the hoist shaft at the shop and banging his head. It is understood that he got the nickname of 'Suckie' because he

dribbled at the mouth. Annie married Benjamin Baker, a traveller with the firm. Although a coincidence, there appears to be no direct family connection with Edward Baker who subsequently managed the gravel pits. Benjamin was active in the local Gas and Water companies.

The Rise and Fall of the Business

Marion Russell's book, "How Carnforth Grew: A Simple Outline to 1900 AD" records that; *Hartley's soon became the busiest shop in town and Carnforth's first local telephone was installed when the firm's two shops were connected in 1881. She claims that they were well known as the best catering firm in the district and notes that, Hartley's efficiency was given a unique test when at one hour's notice they were asked to supply sustenance for a whole regiment of highland troops during a certain night at Lancaster railway station. The soldiers en route to Egypt (which Britain had occupied in 1882). Hartley's passed the test with flying colours (and NO sliced bread!). On occasions they supplied for as many as 6,000 people at High Sheriff's fetes.*

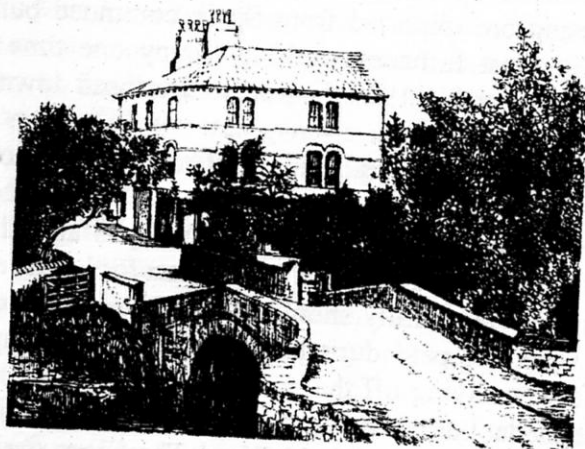
In the early 1900s the business was obviously booming and Marion Russell's further book "How Carnforth Steamed into the 20th Century" records: *1909: There was keen rivalry for custom between Carnforth's two biggest grocers. Hartley's had the reputation for being our area's best caterers, having first started the trade here in 1863 when they had supplied food for the 'navvies' who were building our local railways. Carnforth then had less than 400 inhabitants and no shops of any size. Both Hartley's (at the*

Carnforth Inn crossroads) and our Co-op had efficient delivery services by horse and cart to the homes of their customers.

Mainly as a result of employment provided by the railways and the ironworks, Carnforth's population had grown enormously during the latter part of the 19th century but in the ten year period from 1901 to 1911 an increase of only 102 was recorded. The town's rapid growth had halted. Trade at the ironworks had become spasmodic. The source of iron ore in Furness had dried up and steel production ended. Iron ore production using ore imported from Spain continued but with only some six blast furnaces working at any one time there were redundancies and in 1929 the ironworks closed down.

With grocery shops at Millhead, Carnforth, Burton and Bolton-le-Sands, the bakery and catering business, a cooked meat shop near Carnforth Station and gravel pits at Millhead, North Road, Carnforth and Lunds Field, Carnforth, one would have thought that the family should have thrived. Perhaps too many bills were not paid during the depression, perhaps too many people were living off the business and perhaps changes needed to be made, but whatever, the businesses did not survive the period between the two World Wars. The boom period for Carnforth was certainly over by this time. From 1932 the gravel pits were operated by a limited company, John W. Hartley Ltd., and the Baker family subsequently took a controlling interest. The next generation was never brought into the grocery side of the business and it ceased to trade as John Hartley and Co in the 1930s.

John W. Hartley ended his days with a stroke and a fall down the stairs at Millhead House, at which time Madge, his daughter, and her family returned from the Isle of Man. William H. Hartley left Park View in 1938, with his second wife Rose and family, and lived in rented accommodation initially at Woodplumpton then at 148 Tulketh Road, Ashton, Preston, where he died in 1941. He is buried in the Wilkinson family plot at Woodplumpton.



Millhead House (the Hartley's shop and home)
(Drawn from a photograph by D. Dakeyne.

Part II

This part continues the family history through the war years and includes the establishment of a new and separate business by my father.

My Parents' Generation

My father Henry Coupland Hartley, born in 1906, was the youngest of six children born to William Henry Hartley and Clara Eleanor Coupland.

William Forrest was born in 1898 and died of diphtheria at the age of 12. He together with a cousin Bessie Baker and a friend from the Whinnerah family had been taken to visit a family at Clawthorpe where there was illness and they all three died.

Mary (May) born 1899 and Clara Cornelia (Cornie) born 1902, both went to Ackworth, a Quaker Boarding School (Founded 1779) at Pontefract in West Yorkshire, where a relative Mary Hartley was headmistress. May married Will Richmond in 1927 and went to Nigeria as one of the earliest missionaries with the Sudan United Mission. She is now in Oakfield Nursing Home at Forton but mentally very alert at 105 years old. Corrie married Nathaniel Fox who became a minister and emigrated to Tasmania.

John Beetham and Agnes Irene (Rene) were twins born in 1905. John Beetham died at birth or soon after. Rene trained as a nurse and worked in Blackburn. Latterly she lived near Morecambe Grammar School as companion to sisters of the family of Edmondson Builders in Morecambe and died in 1970.

My father had worked for the family firm as a boy delivering with a horse and cart, and then as a traveller. He was living at Millhead House when he was married to Elinor Carter, of a farming family at Field House, Pilling. They set up home in a new bungalow near to Warton Grange at Town End, Warton, and the deposit of £5 on this is recorded as 15th September, 1936. My father was not given a say in the running of John Hartley and Co. but grocery was the only thing that he knew and an unknown benefactor loaned him money to start his own business, known simply as H.C.Hartley - Grocers. His shop was at the top of Edward Street, Carnforth.

Much of the business, as with the old firm, was with farmers and home delivery. Delivery was, of course, by then with motor vehicles; two Renault vans were, by the end of World War II, on their last legs and replacement of one by an ex-US Army ambulance vehicle was exciting to me as a small boy. Perpetuating the old firm's idea of "You order it, we can get it", my father would pop down the back street between Edward Street and New Street to the back entrance of the Co-op to fill any gaps in an order. This despite the documented rivalry between the old firm and the Co-op. Made up orders were packed in old cardboard boxes and laid out on the floor through the back shop for loading in order, the vans being literally stacked to the roof. Thursday was a big day with deliveries to boarding houses at Morecambe being virtually wholesale orders. The Jungle Café on Shap was a separate delivery claimed by me as a new driver, the vehicle in the 1950s now being either a pre-war crash gearbox Riley or an up-to-date Bedford with sliding doors.

My father was not much of a manager, preferring to be out on the road collecting orders and delivering. He was known as 'the midnight grocer' because of the long hours he worked. There were two order delivery vans, a car and mobile shop*. He had a manager in the shop and my mother did the books. The maximum staff would, I suppose, be six or eight.

The old family home of John W. Hartley, Millhead House, was occupied by the Pedersen family in my youth. Madge Hartley, the daughter of John and Carrie, had in 1927 married Randell Pedersen, a newcomer to the district. This being a double wedding with May Hartley and Will Richmond, which, strangely for a Quaker family, took place at St. Oswald's C of E church at Warton. Possibly this was Carrie's influence. Rendell and Madge lived at Park View early in their marriage, then in the Isle of Man, before moving back into Millhead House. In my teenage years Madge lived there with five children. By then her parents were no longer alive and Rendell had died of blackwater fever whilst on leave from service in Africa during World War II. The property was used as a government store for flour and other provisions during the war and must have passed out of family ownership by then or, at the latest by the early 1950s. For a period it was a Slipper Factory before the site was cleared and houses erected in the 1990s.

* see Mourholme Magazine 1998- No1 Yealand tradesmen's Vans (Cressida Miles)

PROGRAMME 2004-2005

(Meetings at the Carnforth Railway Station Meeting Room,
7.30 pm – see map on page 28).

Subscription - £8 for individual members, £15 for family or
school members. Visitors are welcome at a fee of £1-50 each
meeting

Autumn 2004

December 9th Christmas Meeting. Buffet.
Witches.

Spring 2005

January 13th The Other Wallace Collection, Isle of Man
And Cumbria.
Mr. & Mrs. Fancy

February 10th A History of Landscape Protection in the
Lake District.
Mr. Varley, Friends of the Lake District

March 10th The Lancashire Way of Death.
Dr. E. Roberts

April 14th AGM
More About Carnforth Railway Station
Clive Holden