THE MOURHOLME MAGAZINE OF
LOCAL HISTORY

2005-2006, No. 2 Price 75p

Contents:

Archive

2005-2006, 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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HOUSE HUNTING IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Joan Clarke

Not long ago some old papers referring to Yealand Conyers, were kindly lent to the Mourholme Society for examination. The papers seemed, at first, as dry and uninteresting as any other legal document, but gradually it became plain that they were, in their legal way, telling the on-going story of a house in Yealand Conyers from the beginning of the eighteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth. The house passed through many hands. If there ever had been a time when it had been the home of one family over generations, that time had gone by the eighteenth century. This house, was as repeatedly mortgaged, sold and remodelled as any modern house.

The story begins in 1726 when Joseph Robinson, yeoman, decided he wanted to have his 'customary holding' converted to 'fee simple', that is he wanted to own the holding absolutely and not as a tenant of the Lord of the Manor. Other 'customary' tenants had gone the same road before him. By long custom and usage they all but owned their property anyway, since they could sell it or hand it on to their heirs just as they chose. The Lord of the Manor had to give formal consent, but as far as is known never refused it.

The lordship of Yealand Manor had been held for two centuries by the Middleton family of Leighton Hall, but the last male heir, Sir George Middleton, died in 1772. The estate passed to two co-heiresses, whose husbands were in difficulties both financial and political (one at least went out

with the Old Pretender in 1715). The estate was sold and so was the lordship. The tight grip of the Middletons came to an end and tenants took the opportunity to convert to fee simple. Some of their names can be found in manuscripts held in Lancaster Central Library[i]. It seems likely that this freedom was at least one factor in a gradual change of land ownership in Yealand Conyers. In the seventeenth century much of the land had been held by these small so-called 'tenant' farmers. From the beginning of the eighteenth century more and more of the land was bought by a few large owners, often incomers who had made their money in Lancaster or elsewhere. They did not necessarily farm the land themselves. Some did, others were more interested in having a pleasing estate where they could live the life of a country gentleman. In either case their land was worked by leasehold tenants and by farm servants and agricultural labourers who were dependent on wages for they no longer had land of their own. The story of Joseph Robinson's house and land illustrates something of this.

In 1726 Joseph Robinson paid an agreed sum to Charles Gibson, a gentleman of Preston who had bought the Lordship, and had his property converted to fee simple. The dwelling house that went with the land is not given a name and it is not, at this stage in the story, possible to identify it. From the described property one can assume that it was a fairly substantial holding with:- '*... One Dwelling house, two Shops, one Barn & Shippon, One Turfhouse, edifices, buildings, Outhouses ... One Orchard one Garden...*'. There were nearly four acres of land attached, consisting of a close called 'Ploumrum', a 'dale' (a share in what was, or had been, common town land) in 'Footeron'; also two other dales which

both lay in '*... the common town feild called Hungryslack commonly called the White field*'. And finally there was a 'mossdale' in the White Moss in Yealand Redmayne, identified merely as adjoining the mossdale of John Waller. Ploumrum has not so far been identified. Footeron would have been land adjoining that bit of the main road running by the school which is still known as Footeran Lane[ii]. Over the centuries the old medieval strip-holdings had gradually and silently been 'enclosed' and passed from the township to private hands. The use of the term 'common town field' suggests that this process had not been completed yet - or at any rate that some land was still remembered as having been part of the old open field.

Joseph had perhaps over-stretched himself for a document of 1729, only three years after he bought the holding, shows him mortgaging it. He used it as security to raise a loan of £60 from a fellow yeoman, Robert Jackson of Arnside. After that it seems Robinsom never got clear of debt. Even the interest was still unpaid in 1739 when Robert Jackson's patience finally ran out. A new deed was drawn up, an 'indenture tripartite', between the unfortunate Joseph Robinson, Robert Jackson and a new player in the game, Henry Godsalve, a Lancaster grocer. Godsalve was prepared to advance to Joseph Robinson £65, enough to pay off all he had borrowed. He was even prepared to make a new loan of £20. Robinson was thus enabled to pay Robert Jackson at last, but his property was still not his own; Henry Godsalve now held it as security.

Joseph Robinson could not pay off this new loan anymore than the old one. Henry Godsalve died, but his sister

and heir, Ellin, had married Abraham Rawlinson, a merchant of Lancaster. Fortunately for Robinson, the Rawlinsons were not hard-hearted. The next indenture, drawn up in 1746 shows a sympathy unexpected in a legal document. Joseph Robinson, it records:- '*having a wife & seven small children to support hath not been able to pay the yearly growing interest of the said Eighty five pounds*'. It is then revealed that Ellin and Abraham are related to Robinson and '*out of Compassion to ... Joseph Robinson's Circumstances and with a Charitable regard and Friendly respect to him & family have ... agreed to ... abate & forgive him forty five pounds ...*'

That still left forty pounds unpaid and Robinson had to borrow this from John Dawson, a gentleman of Warton, but Joseph Robinson had now been in debt forr 17 years and John Dawson was taking no chances with him. The deed that Robinson signed gave John Dawson the power to sell the holding, at the best price he could get, recoup himself and give any remainder to Robinson. In fact John Dawson did not sell the property until 1756 when it went for £90. So there would have been no residue for Joseph Robinson, anyway. Moreover, by then, he had borrowed so much from Dawson that the debt stood at £102. It seems he had tried to improve his position by taking on new work, for in this document he is described not as a Yeoman, but as 'a serge-weaver and wool-comber'. It was to no avail. Dawson sold the property off in lots. Who bought the land is not known, but the dwelling house and its immediate, gardens and outhouses went to Philip Adlington of Yealand Conyers, another serge weaver, for £55. The only land that still went with the house was the mossdale in White Moss. What

happened to Joseph Robinson and his wife and seven children has not been discovered.

Philip Adlington had only had the house for five years when he sold it in 1753 to Joseph Hodgson, a butcher of Yealand Conyers. He did not do badly for he got £70 for it, more than the £55 he had paid. This document says nothing as to why Adligton was selling up, but it seems he continued his trade of serge-weaver for when Hodgson came to sell the house again in 1764 the new purchaser was specifically indemnified against any claim for dower that might be made by '*Ann the wife of Philip Adlington late of Yealand Conyers but now of Skerton, serge weaver*'.

The purchaser who bought from Hodgson' the butcher. was an Agnes Coupland, spinster of Kirkby Kendal. She paid £81 for it. Agnes Coupland was a Quaker. Among the documents is a copy of her will written in 1764, the same year as she bought the house. She is, she says '*...grown aged and under some bodily weakness, but of sound and disposing Mind and Memory*'. She makes various small legacies, amounting to £20, to friends and relations and donates £5 to '*the Poor amongst my Friends the People called Quakers in Kendal ... that is to say such who are Housekeepers & in Low circumstances*' (housekeeper at that time had the secondary meaning of house-bound according to the Oxford English Dictionary). The principal beneficiary was her nephew, John Huetson, or Hewetson, who is to have the house that she '*lately purchase from Joseph Hodgson*'.

If she hoped she had settled her nephew for life she was mistaken, for only four years later, in February 1768, John Hewetson, (now identified as 'shoemaker') raised a £60 loan, at £4-10s per cent per annum interest, on the security of the house. Once again it was John Dawson who found the money. On the back of the document are two notes. In March 1773, Mr John Dawson having died, John Hewetson has to pay back the loan (which with the interest had now reached £68) to Mr Edmund Dawson' the executor. An earlier note, dated February 1773 makes it clear that John Hewetson had only been able to raise the money by selling his house to a Mr Bryan Grey of Lancaster, gentleman (dealing in property seems to have been one way gentlemen made their money).

Mr Grey did not live in the property himself. When he sold it in 1779 to James Sawrey of Yealand Conyers, the indenture mentions that at the time it was '*in the quiet and peaceable possession of Judith Walmsley, widow*', presumably as a tenant. Mr Sawrey paid £90 for the house and gardens. The property at last seemed to have found a prosperous owner. Although Mr Sawrey is called 'merchant of Lancaster' he apparently lived at least some of the time in his Conyers house for, according to the parish registers, three of his children were born in Yealand Conyers. The first, James, was born in October 1781, but sadly his burial is recorded for Christmas Day the same year. John was born in 1784 and Mary Ann in 1785; both survived as far as is known. How he managed his merchant business in Lancaster needs thinking about. Did he have another house in Lancaster, or was he, perhaps, an early commuter, though as this was before the railway came the

journey, even with a good pair of horses, would have taken an hour or more.

Sawrey bought further property in Yealand Conyers - the Croft, the Snape, the Snape Plain and Boon Town which gives a more exact indication for his dwelling house. Snape Lane is still the name of the road running down from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Conyers to the present A6, and Boon Town, later document show, was the land on the west side of the village street and included not only the weavers' cottages and heckling shop immediately opposite, but also the land further up the hill where West Villa now is. To obtain these properties Sawrey paid out a further £840. He also set about building himself a house more suited to a gentleman than the old farm house that Joseph Robinson converted to fee simple in 1726. When Sawrey finally sold his property in 1791 to Mr Robert Waithman, a yeoman from Lindeth, his house is described as '*that newly erected Messuage or dwelling house.*' It still has all the old outhouses the brewhouse and turf house, gardens and orchards, but now it has stables (obviously necessary for a gentleman needing to travel to Lancaster), but also an ultimate sign of gentility - an Asparagus garden. He also improved the property by opening a new well. Among the legal documents is a note detailing the cost of this in 1787 (£3–5s-0d in all).

The estate was so enlarged and improved that Robert Waithman had to pay £960 for it. The only memento of the old days was that the estate still had attached to it the mossdale in the White Moss '*adjoining... to a dale belonging to John Waller'*. One would like to know if this was the same John Waller who had owned the moss sixty six years before, but the

document gives no hint. The only thing Robert Waithman did not purchase was the pew in the north aisle of St Oswald's, the parish church, which Sawrey had acquired when he first bought the estate. It would scarcely have been of use to Robert Waithman for the family were Quakers. It is now clear that the story being followed in the documents is that of the handsome Georgian house on the corner by the Catholic church, which many still think of as 'Waithman's', though the Waithmans themselves called it 'The Elms'. This is confirmed by a document of 1827 which describes the house as being on the east side and fronting on the Town street and bounded on the south by Snape Lane.

The Waithman family kept the house for the next fifty years. They made money as flax-merchants, owning the big flax mill in Holme and they bought still more property in Yealand Conyers till, to judge by the will of Joseph Waithman, Robert's son which was written in 1830 they owned between them the Elms and the Bower as well as West Villa and the weavers' cottages and the heckling shop. All the same the documents give a hint that even the Waithman's may have been over-stretching themselves In 1827 Joseph raised £3,000 on '*two dwelling houses'* in Yealand Conyers. It was an ominous sign. In 1852 the Elms was on the market once again for Waithman and Co. had crashed to the tune, it was said, of fifty thousand pounds – but that is another story and one only partly told in the documents

[1] Lancaster Central Library, MSS 5712 & 5832

[1] For those interested in place-names Footeran most likely means a place below a boundary - which is exactly where it is, between Redmayne and Conyers. Mary Higham of the Lancashire branch of the English Place-name Society kindly supplied this information

ORAL HISTORY: DOUGLAS MOORBY
John Findlater

Born (a twin) at 26 Russell Rd., Carnforth on 29.12.20.
Retired Locomotive Engine Driver.Interviewed at his home, 36 Dunkirk Avenue, Carnforth, 25.7.95.

Douglas's father was an ex-soldier, who had been discharged on health grounds in 1916, after being blown up and temporarily buried by a shell. This was supposed to have affected his heart and he had been invalided on a small pension, but he also managed to do a little work at Hartley's quarry. Unfortunately, Mr Moorby was given to drink and this, at times, reduced the family to penury. Douglas's mother was a Tyson; the 13th child in a well known Carnforth family. As well as a twin sister, Douglas had a younger brother, Ronald.

Initially, Douglas was brought up by Mr and Mrs Shuttleworth at 16 Russell Rd. He did not elaborate on the reason for this except to say that another child had been on the way and that he had "had it pretty good" there. At the age of seven he returned to the parental home and "had it pretty rough". He had attended North Rd. Primary School, with its very strict headmaster, Mr. Barnard. The other teachers were Mrs. Lomax, Mrs. Butcher, Mrs. Wilkinson and Mr Barnes. He liked school well enough but was glad to leave at the age of fourteen. His main interest then, and later, was football. In later years he trained the Carnforth football team.

The family did not have much in the 1930s, sometimes short of food, mostly due to his father's habit. He attended the

Congregational Church and went to socials at the Co-op Hall. He remembers George Badley, Ruth Loy (later Mrs. Badley) and Marion Chalmers very well. One of his haunts was Kellet Seeds rather than Warton Crag and he fished the canal. He doesn't remember Carnforth with its population of about 3,000 as being particularly dirty. It cost 2d for the Saturday afternoon cinema and it cost 6d for return railway ticket to Morecambe.

Douglas worked first, and while still at school, as a newspaper boy for Smith's in Market Street, then, on leaving school, at the Beetham paper mill ' keeping paper right for the rollers' until he was sixteen, when he worked at a poultry farm belonging to Major Draper opposite the Redwell Inn at Over Kellet. At seventeen he joined the railway which had always been his ambition – his grandfather had been a goods guard for LNWR. At first, he was a LNWR 'knocker-upper' and messenger, mostly working around the sheds, either during the afternoon and until midnight or from midnight to 8 am. At eighteen he became an engine cleaner then worked firing on shunting engines; and was very busy around the various sheds.

He remembers the pay scales fairly well: engine driver £4-10s a week; passed fireman £3-12s; top fireman £3-6s; goods guard £3-5s; passenger guard £3-7s; messenger 10s a week plus overtime. At that time a policeman was on about £3-9s.

When the second world war came in 1939 Douglas was in a reserved occupation and was not called into the armed services. There were cutbacks on the railway and he was sent to Tebay for a few weeks in 1940, where he lived in digs. Then

John Easter Roberts the union man at Carnforth wanted passed firemen at Carnforth and he returned. In 1941 he was sent to Nuneaton for two months; he worked long hours. There was the blitz on Coventry nearby, the odd bomb uncomfortably close. He managed to get back to Carnforth and in 1943 was married to Irene Watson from Warton, who had been in the army on 'ack, ack' guns and they lived in rooms at 85 Kellet Road, Carnforth. Renie earned a few shillings a week in her job, his wages were low and they only had 2s or so a week to spare over necessary expenditure, so he welcomed overtime. He finally passed for driver and spent 25 years as a driver based at Carnforth.

He had been all for nationalization of the railways at the end of the war. He claimed the railways were more or less bankrupt at that time and the staff poorly paid. Afterwards conditions improved. Though all the companies merged there were animosities based on old rivalries (LNWR, LMS and Furness railways had all worked at Carnforth). The 48 hour week was reduced over time to 39 weeks and four weeks holiday instead of one. He was a staunch Trade Unionist; originally in the NUR he had joined ASLEF the footplate men's union. He defended the bad feeling in the 50s against non-striking footplate men during the ugly strikes then. He thinks it right for retired railwaymen to have free passes on the railways.

He claimed he could tell terrible tales about 'old' Dr Jackson pouring castor oil into one man to cure his stomach-ache and hacking at Douglas's tonsils on a Sunday morning while he was being held down.

A (DIALECT) WORD IN YOUR EAR – FROM OVER THE BOUNDARY WALL

Diane Dey

The first known reference to Cumbria was in 875 AD when, according to 'The Chronicle of Aethelweard, in that year Halfdene the Dane made war upon the Cumbri, a people inhabiting a wide area between Northumbria and the Firth of Clyde. The name Westmorland, Westmoringaland, was in popular use from around 980 AD. History has made Cumbrian a group of related dialects but with some sharp divisions to the north, the Scottish influence, to the east tinged with Tyneside and to the south, Lancashire affinities.

The Celtic influence is strong, much stronger than in most English counties. Dunnock, conk [head], game-leg [hurt leg], hog [year-old sheep] and mug [an ugly face], leprechaun, and bogey-manare just a few examples of words still in common usage and if you visit Glaramara, Blennerhasset, Aira Force or Blencathra, think Celt and feel the spirit of the past, of a people whose warriors went naked into battle, whose slaves could be bought for a flagon of wine, whose priests practised human sacrifice, whose artisans invented the stirrup and who wisely gave equal rights to their women.

Technically speaking. The Lancashire dialect began over 700 years ago and derives its base in Old English. In normal colloquial conversation, 90% of Lancashire words are native in origin.

It is the Scandanavian influence, outstanding in Cumbria and significant in Lancashire, that provides the

greatest link between the two dialects. Sounding distinctively different and each embracing a unique vocabulary, here is a common chord – and well understood in Iceland too. Do we all understand each other when we **blather** about a **gawmless** fool **kecking** a bucket of **claggy** crowdy, or '**Sich** a fella. Will ye shut yon **yat** afoor ye **gang** and **shedder** they **yows.**' 'If thee **laiks** aboot **vania** t' **beck,** tha mun **slape** and git a **dunkin,**' **fettle** the **shippon** in the **back-end**, or exclaim **'Heck,** what's thee **gawpin** at ? Keep yer **neb** out and **loiter** somewhere else'?

Place names like Holme, Wath, Langstrothdale and Lund are common to both counties and endings using –ness,-how,-fell,-tarn,-wick,-with, -carr, -thwaite, -dyke, -thorpe, -sett, -gill, -kirk, and –mel are indicators of scandanavian occupation. From the farmstead we are no strangers to the midden, gripe, swamp and lathe.

However, one's understanding can become seriously challenged. Perhaps it was for this reason that in 1898, Mr B. Kirkby in his book, 'Lakeland Words' , set out to help the uninitiated with the dialect of the district. Or so he thought! What do you think?

Elbow grease: "Noo than what? We 'a know what elbow grease is when its runnin' off yan's broo, and happen droppin' inta yan's e'e affoar yan's time ta wipe 't off. Elbow grease and styickin' plaister er twa varry useful mack o' things ta carry aboot when yan's a stiffish darrak [day's work] at front o' yan. "

Ettle: "Noo 'ettle' and 'addle' is verra near a keen without a doot, but varry different i' application. Gurt addlers is sometimes poor ettlers, an' a good ettler 'll mak up fer varra lal addlins. A body 'at can ettle their income oot tell it'll gangvarra farder ner their outgang, yan 'at can use an' plan iv'ry thing tell it'll gang varra fardest possible way, anudder 'at 'll plan his wark oot seea as he's just eneuf fer o his time – this means ta ettle 't oot. [addle means to earn, to maqke a living].

Yerb Pudding Easter-man-giants, broccoli, chives, nettles chopped fine mixed wi' barley an' boiled in a poak. That a dinner of herbs. They gev a Cockney sum yance, an he brast oot yewlen, an seza he "Ah izzant gaan to be a coo, is ah?"

Stang.A sudden pang of pain; a cart shaft; a bull stan. But sen ah can tell they used ta ride t' stang at New Year Eve, t' fun was catchen chaps 'at pretended they duddn't want ta be catched ta be stanged, an dudn't they liuk silly astride ov a powl, an tweea fellows carryen them frae yah public hoose tut annudder, an a armchair ta stang t' winner in. It gian oot a' date an it happen as weel.

Socketing Brass A fine 'at a young chap has ta pay if he's an offcomer when he's catch't a coortin'. Miast o' them pay't wi' pride but some stand on their dignity, an it means a march to 't horse troff.

Sozlement This is a recipe. Taties, cabbish, dumplin' o' on ya platter, an then add dremplin' sauce, onion gravy, sugar,

salt and pepper an ye wad hev a heap o' sozlement 'at wad please t' heart ov a hungry man ta say nowt aboot his stomach.

Soo, sooem I't' dark an dreary days o' December, when t' winds rivin' an' an grianen, an thrusten fit ta rive o' t' trees an doors doon, if ye'll wisht a minute an' lissen , ye'll mebbe har 't give a sob an soo like a mortal I' pain. They deea say 'at that sob an' that soo co's frae 't spirits o' lal bairns 'ats bin co'ed away afoor t' kirk ceremonies hes bin gian throo ower them, 'an at they enter intil the carcasses o' some girt gowlen changen hoonds, an' fer ivver an ivver they're at it. We'll nut hev that, will we? If t' soo'en wind is 't mean of a sairey [sad] spirit, its summat war ner a lal bairn.

Pipe-stopple What lasses frizz ther toppins wi' –t' stem ov a clay pipe.

Loshes Our dialect has more of the harsher sounds in it, as is natural, but this is one exception. It used to signify the liquid "swish" of the flooded river as it flows over the boulders in its course, and is unequalled as an onomatopeic. One of Lakeland's poets has said of the Lyvennet:

" aykes an' loshes ower the steayne.
Like kitlins wi a cloot,
Howks grubs an' worms fra under t' breeas,
To feed t' lal hungry troot."

Reference [Lancaster Ref. Library] Peter Wright Cumbria/Lancs. Dialect – Dalesman Books 1979.

EXCERPTS FROM THE MEMOIRS OF HARRY BENNET

By Robin Greaves

Harry Bennet was born in Millhead (or Dudley as he knew it) in 1902. His parents had married in 1885 and he was the youngest of eight children. He was a pupil at Warton United School 1907 –16 when he won one of three bursarships (Lancaster Education Committee) for Lancaster and District. He attended Lancaster Royal Grammar School 1916-20 and then returned to Warton as a student teacher for one year. He studied at Leeds Training College 1921-23 and his teaching certificate included a credit in Advanced History.

"My father as a youth of 16/17 walked from Dudley Port, Staffs. In 1880 as the bottom had fallen out of the wrought iron industry due to the Bessemer Cast Steel process. (Ironically Henry Bessemer was an early director of the Carnforth Haematite Ironworks.)

After visiting Frodingham, Rotherham, Sheffield, Irlam and Darwin ironworks in search of work, 'Dudley Families' provided hospitality on the way; he got a 'front side' job at Carnforth where he stayed on and off until it closed in 1928, as one of the production foremen.

As a small boy I accompanied my father on long walks over the Crag, the shore and the marsh. We used every path up and down and on these walks he thought aloud about past and present. He had a marvellous memory and had been born about the end of 'oral education'. I was in my teens before I realised

my father had not personally known the Abraham Darbys, 'iron mad Wilkinson, etc.

My mother came from very different stock. She and her forbears as far back as known, were born in cottages right on the edge of Morecambe Bay at Bolton (le Sands). They fished the bay – stake fishing, cockling and shrimping. More often than not they crossed the bay, sometimes directly to Ulverston market.

My mother at twelve went as a nurse to Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell's baby girl and two year old boy. They kept the Black Bull in Common Garden St., Lancaster. At 17 she became cook at Miss Pickford's School for Young Ladiers, Haws Hill, Carnforth."

Two trades which have died out since I was a boy are stone knapping and clog sole and heel making. Several times in my years at Warton United School large heaps of blue and white pebbles would be dumped on the low weir across the road from Kilncroft House. Next would appear the stone knapper with his long-shafted Warrington hammer and a sack full of straw. As the days went by I would check what was happening. Soon the knapper on his sack would be demonstrating his skill. Each pebble would be tapped or knapped and immediately split into three or four pieces. It seemed so easy that one day he handed me his hammer and a stone. However I tried the pebble remained one. Then he began to give me a lecture: he told me that each pebble had grain, like

wood has. Limestone splits easily, but the blues were tougher and so he was paid more to knap them. After this I tried again, and was more successful. A lasting memory of my friend the stone knapper is of him squatting by his neat rectangular heap with gentle sloping sides. Now we need expensive machinery to do what his eye did naturally.

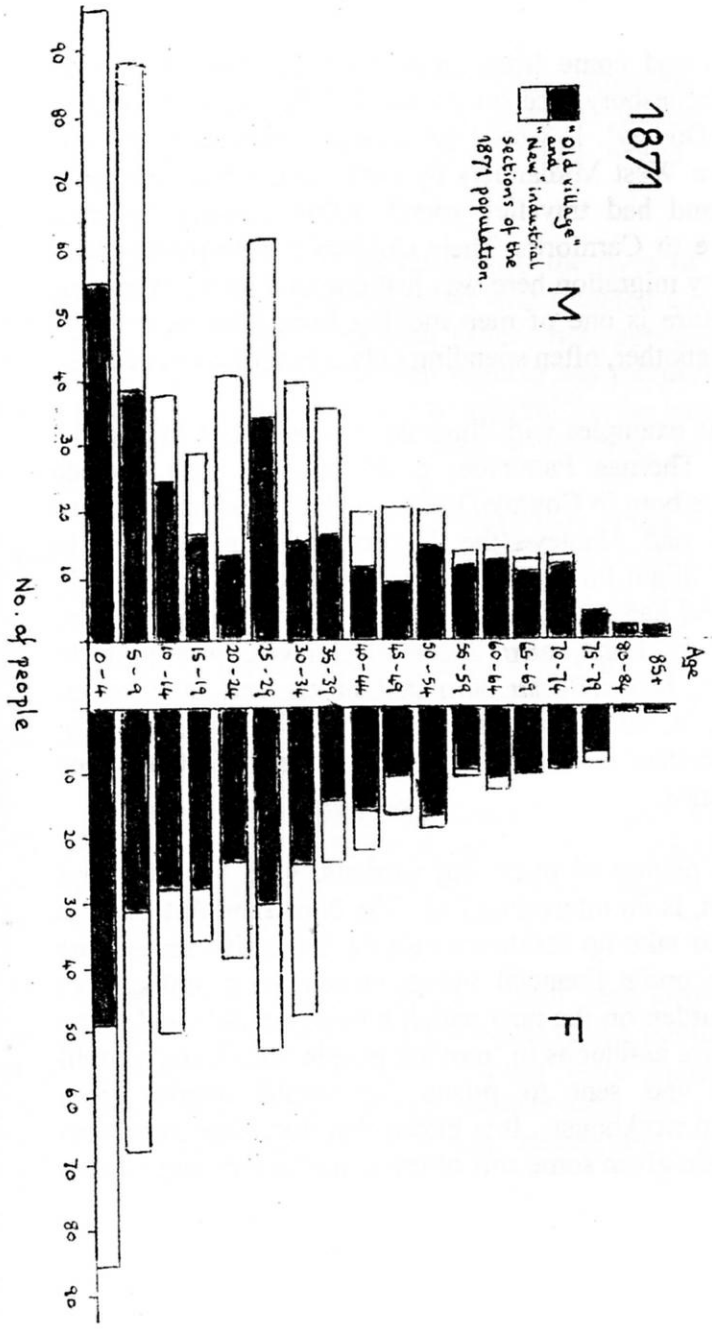
Frontside blastfurnacemen the world over would wear clogs instead of boots, for at times the pigbed sand was really hot. Instead of insole socks my father would use reeds obtained from the Keer near Cotestones. They were thin hollow ones. He had never had a science lesson, but knew they were the cheapest and poorest conductors of heat. I often bought a bunch of them home for he changed them weekly. The clog uppers outlasted many a sole and heel so when it was needed I would take them to the only clogmaker in the district. The job fascinated me. He had three things – a bench with a metal eye on it, a long curved knife with a piece sticking up at the end which matched the eye, and a pile of wooden pieces. Quickly he would strip off the old soles and heels, select two pieces of wood and carve the new bottoms. The wood was pushed away from the anchored knife and quickly before my very eyes the wood was shaped to fit the uppers, which then required only to be tacked into place. To me, magic, to the clogmaker, the result of years of experience following seven years of apprenticeship, partly paid for from Mansergh's Charity. Who Mr. Mansergh was I do not know, but his work lives on.

WARTON-with –LINDETH TOWNSHIP –PART 2
A DECADE of CHANGE
By Jean Chatterley

An age-structure pyramid based on the 1871 census for Warton-with-Lindeth (see opposite page) shows a great increase in the population. The total is now 1060, an increase of 76.6% on the 1861 figure. The pyramid is also a very different shape to those for 1841, 1851 and 1861 shown in the previous article.The broad base reflects the influx of young people into the parish. Almost all the change is due to the arrival of the new industrial workers and their families to that part of Carnforth which happens to be on the Warton side of the parish, now called Millhead.

Immigrants into any community are usually the younger and potentially child-bearing section of the population, and certainly the census data supports this as being the case here, just as it was in the twentieth new towns. Detailed study shows that family sizes were not increasing: families were large, but no more so than in 1851 or 1861, and no more so in Millhead than in Warton. Nearly all of the newcomers were under 40, however, and 181 were under 10 years of age.

The returns give place of birth, and it is interesting to note that in Millhead only children aged 3 or under were born in the parish, indicating the beginnings of Millhead housing to have been around 1868. The Ironworks had opened in 1864. The study of the birth places of the older children of the recently arrived families is interesting as it reflects the movements of the parents. It is well known that many of the



ironworkers had come from an area in and around Dudley-Bilston- Wednesbury, and on the older O.S. maps Millhead is named as 'Dudley'. It would be wrong, however, to assume that all were West Midlanders by birth. Some had been born elsewhere and had travelled round before moving on from Staffordshire to Carnforth. Their children's birth-places show that for many migration here was just one in a series of moves, and the picture is one of men moving from one ironworks – coalfield to another, often spending only a year or two in each.

Some examples will illustrate this aspect of Millhead's population. Thomas Patterson, a 36 year-old iron furnace labourer, was born in County Down, and had two children born in Tunstall and Hanley (the Potteries) before coming to Millhead. William Iniff, a 31 year-old blacksmith, was born in Rochdale, and had a child born in Workington before he came here. Samuel Lunn, also 31, a steelmaker, was born in Bradford and had children born in Oldham and Manchester. Joseph Wacke, an ironworks labourer of 32 was born in Hastings, Northants, and had come to Millhead via Goldgreen in Staffordshire.

This picture of migrating workers, with their families following on, is an interesting one. The Poor Law Act made it an offence to take up residence outside the parish unless one could prove one's financial independence – i.e. unlikely to become a burden on the new parish's relief funds – and many overseers were assiduous in 'moving people on'. Tramps could be arrested and sent to prison, or would wander from workhouse to workhouse . It is likely, therefore, that ironworks labourers were given some sort of travel documents and written

notice of future employment. Their families must have received similar paperwork, otherwise migrations of workers vital to industrial growth of the nineteenth century would have been impossible.

Jon Raven, who has researched the lives of industrial workers in the West Midlands, and who founded a museum in the Dudley area, was contacted (after his appearance on a Radio 4 programme) to ascertain whether any recruitment drive was known to have taken place to account for the large number of workers from the Dudley area who came, even if not originally, to Millhead. He wrote:
"...at the time...1868-1871, the Dudley iron mines would have been much in decline ...as were some of the coal mines. The district was investing its labour and skills in the upcoming engineering industry and many workers were re-trained to this end. No doubt the failure of industry in this area was known to those opening the [Carnforth] ironworks, and I imagine an agent was sent down to attract people..."

Oral tradition has it that many labourers walked from Dudley to Carnforth to their new work and newly built houses. Although they were skilled workers, it is unlikely that they could have afforded the railway fares.

The houses in Millhead must have been very crowded. Not only did most of the workers have large, young families, many also took in lodgers. Some of these were married men, sometimes relatives of the householder who were probably waiting for more housing to be built before sending for their families.

A sample study of just one street, William Street, in 1871 illustrates many aspects of life in Millhead. The 37 houses were occupied by 207 people. Of these 103 were children under 15, and 20 were lodgers. At No. 30 lived Benjamin and Katherine Evans, an iron furnace labourer and his wife, both in their 20s, with three daughters, aged 5,3, and 1, all from Wednesfield, and FIVE male lodgers, two of whom might have been Benjamin's brothers or cousins, as they were also called Evans, and only one of whom was not from the Wednesfield area. No. 54 was shared by two families, David and Elizabeth Child, both in their early 50s, living with the Slaters, a young family of four – perhaps the older couple were the in-laws – Elizabeth was from the West Midlands, as were the Slaters, whereas David was born in Doncaster. Some families in William Street had a house to themselves: Joseph Simpson, a stonemason, and his wife and two infant daughters lived by themselves as did another stonemason, James Sayle, and his family. But the majority must have lived 'on top of each other', and the resulting pressures probably contributed to many of the outbursts of violence reported in the Lancaster Gazette.

The census columns detailing occupation illustrate the considerable status differences between ironworkers according to exactly what they did at work. Pig lifters, blast furnace keepers, steel blowers, and boilersmiths were not to be confused with ironworks labourers which was the largest single occupational division.

It is remarkable that few Warton-born young men were given employment at the ironworks, even as labourers. Joseph

Bridget, a 17 year-old son of the quarry master, and John Newby, a 34 year-old farmer's son, were taken on as clerks, and both moved to Millhead. John Atkinson, the 19 year-old son of a carter, was the only man shown as a labourer in 1871. The managers obviously preferred men with ironworks experience.

The ironworks and railways, and the need for new housing, stimulated much secondary employment. Amongst the newly arrived men in Millhead not directly employed at the ironworks were brickmakers, bricklayers, plasterers, joiners, key and lock makers, masons, wallers, plumbers and painters.

The only group of young people for whom there was apparently no work were the unmarried young women. In the census for William Street we find not one girl between 15 and 20. where were they? In service elsewhere, perhaps back in the West Midlands? There are many examples of teenage boys listed as ironworks labourers, the youngest from William Street being only 14.

One interesting sidelight on the new workers is their apparent ignorance of where they were born. Few could read or write, and the census clerk would write down what he thought he had heard, his understanding of strange dialects and unknown place names adding to the confusion. Some knew their birth town but not the county – Willenhall appears as belonging to both Staffs. and Shrops. – and some places are not easily traceable, as they were the names of individual houses or farms.

In the older part of Warton, life seems to have continued much as in previous decades. The population pyramid shows that the 'old' village has a very similar shape/composition to that of 1861. The old village population had risen by 23, a small gain but at least an indication that the decline of the previous 30 years had been halted.

REPORT ON EVENING MEETINGS
Jenny Ager

September 8th Folklore and Popular Beliefs – all true! – by Peter Watson

The first autumn meeting of the Society for the year, began on a sombre note. Mrs Robin Greaves, our new chairman, appointed in place of Michael Wright after his sudden death on holiday, just ten days after the Annual General Meeting in April, read a letter from Michael's family. They had expressed their thanks for the support from society members at his funeral and afterwards. An appreciation of Michael and an obituary were in the last issue of the magazine.

The speaker for the evening was Peter Watson, a lecturer in folklore and popular beliefs. All the stories he told had been passed on to him by people who had seen and experienced strange happenings, things that cannot easily be explained by modern science. The influx of different peoples coming and settling in this part of the country, including Celts, Romans and Vikings, have all added to the mix of cultures and beliefs which make Lancashire and Yorkshire a rich source of supernatural traditions and tales.

Witch bottles, powerful words like abracadabra, rowan crosses, a black cat's tail hair, and the life force of the colour red were all believed to be charms which could protect from the malevolent powers of witches, fairies, thunder, lightning, gunshots, the evil eye or the falling sickness.

We heard tales of omens of death, bats, corpse candles and invisible visitations; boggarts, werewolves and huge black dogs; ghosts of abbots, roman soldiers, white ladies and a little girl from a burnt out farm; and of love potions and cures for water-elf sickness (now known as chicken pox).

As he said, all the stories are true; there are things out there that we don't understand. The members of the meeting went out into the dark night with a lot to think about.

October 13th. Harriet Martineau –unsung heroine of the 19th Century by Barbara Todd .

Barbara Todd inspired a great deal of interest in the subject of her evening talk. Harriet Martineau was a remarkable woman, who lived for the last 30 years of her life, until 1876, in Ambleside. She was a prolific and popular writer, who overcame her own deafness and ill health, and was influential in tackling the burning issues of the day, including the position of women, slavery, political economy, education, public health and housing. She also had contact with leading figures such as Charlotte Bronte, Elizabeth Gaskell, William Wordsworth, Charles Dickens and Florence Nightingale. Barbara Todd lives in The Knoll, the house Harriet built, and her book "*Harriet Martineau at Ambleside*" won the Lake District Book of the Year Award in 2003.

November 10th One Hundred and Thirty Years of Shipbuilding at Barrow by Graeme Sharp

Graeme Sharp, Head of Communications at BAE Systems provided the Mourholme Local History Society

members with "An Introduction to the Barrow Shipyard, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow", at their November meeting.

The Iron Shipbuilding Company, founded in 1871, by James Ramsden, an engineer, the General Manager of the Furness Railway Company and the first mayor of the town of Barrow-in-Furness, has evolved via the Barrow Shipbuilding Company, a takeover in 1897 by Vickers Sons and Company, steel manufacturers of Sheffield, to become, in 1999, part of the global defence company BAE Systems, itself a product of mergers between British Aerospace and Marconi Electronic Systems.

During the 134 years of its life the Barrow shipyard has built passenger liners, merchant vessels and ships for the Royal Navy and also diversified into other important engineering projects. Following the launch of its first submarine, the Nordenfelt, in 1886, in 1901 the shipyard built the Royal Navy's first submarine, British Holland I, Dreadnought, the first nuclear powered submarine in 1960 and is still at the forefront of technical development and innovation with the Astute class of submarines.

EXHIBITION AT WARTON PARISH CHURCH: *WARTON PARISH'S PLACE IN HISTORY*

People flocked to the Mourholme Society's Silver Jubilee Exhibition in Warton Parish Church held on October 22nd and 23rd . Society members, other local history society's, the primary school, the Women's Institute, other organisations and individuals all contributed to a display of photographs, memorabilia and information, which illustrated Warton Parish's "*Place in History*".

Happily people were able to view a display advertising the new book which the Mourholme Local History Society has published – WARTON 1800 – 1850: How a North Lancashire Parish Changed – see the new book itself and purchase copies if they wished. The book is now available and can be ordered from Dorothy Spencer, 2 Burton Park, Burton LA6 1JB or from Carnforth Bookshop. Retail price £17-50.

PROGRAMME 2005-2006

(Indoor Meetings at the Carnforth Railway Station Meeting Room, 7.30 pm).

Subscription - £9 for individual members, £17 for family or school members. Visitors are welcome at a fee of £1-50 each meeting.

Indoor Meetings Autumn 2005

December 8th Christmas Buffet followed by
"Why Do We Do That?" From the disastrous to the plain funny. Clifford Astin

Indoor Meetings Spring 2006

January 12th Horse Transport and Draft Animals
Dr. R. Vickers.

February 9th King Arthur and the Lost Kingdom of Rheged.
Tom Clare

March 9th Dialect and Accent in Britain.
Dr. K.M. Petyt

April 13th AGM (Mystery) Speaker to be arranged.