

THE MOURHOLME MAGAZINE OF
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The Mourholme 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-Lindeth, Silverdale, Borwick, Priest Hutton,
Carnforth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne

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The History of Earthquakes in Mourholme Area of NW England

Rod J Ireland

The observations on earthquakes by William Hutton in Beetham and recorded by him in the Beetham Registers 1762-1811 (Mourholme Magazine Sept 2006 D Spencer) spurred me into looking at the history of quakes in the Mourholme area. It would appear that the systematic recording of seismic events only began in the 1970's by the British Geological Survey and that prior to that, investigation of earthquakes has generally been in the hands of amateurs. Prior to 1889, such investigations were one-off affairs. Thus the 1863 Hereford earthquake was widely reported, while the 1871 Appleby earthquake did not attract scientific attention.

Between 1889 and 1924, Charles Davison gathered together reports and records of British earthquakes and published 'A History of British Earthquakes' in 1924. Davison's publication was generally lacking in terms of presenting his original data, and the tens of thousands of questionnaires he gathered during his career seem to have been destroyed after his death.

Records show that in the UK between 1540-1940 only eleven people have been killed by earthquakes and none of these fatalities occurred in NW England. I have searched the literature and discovered that between 1750-1911 there were, in northern England, some 25 earthquakes of a sufficient

magnitude that their effects would have been felt within our Mourholme area.

The magnitude and location of most of these quakes means that few people locally would have felt them. The local effects of the quakes, classified according to the new European Macro-seismic Scale (EMS), were in the range 2-4. Magnitude 2: Vibration is felt only by individual people at rest in houses, especially on upper floors of buildings. Magnitude 3: The vibration is weak and is felt indoors by a few people. People at rest feel a swaying or light trembling. Magnitude 4: The earthquake is felt indoors by many people, outdoors by very few. A few people are awakened. The level of vibration is not frightening. Windows, doors and dishes rattle. Hanging objects swing.

The table below lists the 25 quakes felt between 1750 and 1911. Contemporary descriptions of the quakes are to be found in diaries, journals and registers of the period and often take the form of William Hutton's notes in the Beetham Register. Where the local effects of the quakes were more noticeable, dramatic eyewitness descriptions occasionally appear in print. The quake reported by William Hutton on 11th August 1786 had its epicentre at Whitehaven and was felt between Liverpool and Edinburgh and was reported in *Gentleman's Magazine Vol 56 1786 pp707-708*. Perhaps one of the best local descriptions of the effects of a quake are those given in *John Bolton's Geological Fragments from Rambles among the Rocks of Cartmel & Furness 1869 pp253-259*. Here he records the damage done by the Barrow quake of 15th February 1865 and includes eyewitness accounts.

Table of NW Earthquakes 1750-1911

Skipton	8 th June 1753	Todmorden	29 th June 1864
Wensleydale	9 th Dec 1780	Barrow	15 th Feb 1865
Whitehaven	11 th Aug 1786	Grasmere	23 rd Feb 1867
Keswick	6 th July 1787	Appleby (8 shocks)	17-28/3 1871
Kendal	9 th Nov 1817	St Bees	11 th June 1871
Dalton	31 st Oct 1818	Wensleydale	23 rd Sept 1875
Weardale	22 nd April 1830	Shap	12 th Dec 1880
Tynehead	31 st Dec 1837	Ravenstonedale	29 th Dec 1880
Kendal	11 th April 1840	Ravenstonedale	2 nd Jan 1881
Irish Sea	16-17 Mar 1843	Coniston	5 th Jan 1886
Stonyhurst	3 rd Dec 1845	Carlisle	9 th July 1901
Settle	15 th Dec 1859	Keswick (5shocks)	9-14/Jul 1901
		Grasmere	16 th May 1911

Extract from Bolton's Geological Fragments 1869

Now that the excitement occasioned by the earthquake of the 15th of February, 1865, at Rampside and Barrow, has subsided, and people can speak about it with calmness, many circumstances connected with it have come to our knowledge which have not been reported before, several of them from our own observation, and others from reliable sources.

For this purpose we proceeded to Rampside, calling at Roose Cote, and Moorhead. At Roose Cote, they were commencing to repair Mr. Ross's chimneystack; Messrs. T. and W. Huddleston's chimneys were both somewhat

injured. In passing Moorhead, we noticed some large pieces of stone lying on the ground, blackened with soot, and upon inquiry the mistress of the house said they were part of their chimneys, which had fallen outside, but far more of them fell into the house, and two of her children had a narrow escape. One, a little girl, was sitting by the fire, with an infant on her knee, the mother, providentially, being close by, had just time to snatch them away from almost certain destruction. This good woman took us through her house, and showed us that the walls in every room were cracked, and some of the flags in the floor were broken by the effects of the shock. At the next house, (a cottage, adjoining the barn, the end wall of which was badly cracked,) the cottager was close by setting some roots of rhubarb. We asked if he felt the earthquake. "Feel it!" he exclaimed, "I was working at this midden when it com, and it ree roo'd ma about, just as if I woz in a riddle; I cud hardly stand."

After leaving Moorhead we passed Rampside Church, the Parsonage, and two other good houses close by, none of which appeared to be injured. These are all situated on high ground above the village, and with these exceptions, we believe, every house in Rampside was more or less injured by the earthquake, some of them to a fearful extent. The Post Office was very much shaken, and rendered very unsafe, as was also the residence of J. Clegg, Esq., a beautiful "cottage ornée," only one story in height. This house was then shored up with timber, notwithstanding which it was highly dangerous, and a considerable part of it had to be taken down at the time. But the most remarkable case of injury was that of a house close to high water mark, on the shore of Morecambe Bay. This dwelling is built of Red Sandstone, dressed, bedded, and jointed, but since its erection the front wall seems to have been whitewashed several times, which had almost

entirely hidden the jointing. The earthquake not only made several large cracks in different parts, but almost every stone in the front showed a clear joint broken through the coat of whitewash; thus proving, that nearly every individual stone in the front of the house had been moved on its bed by the effect of the shock. It had to be taken down immediately. There were three or four other houses which it was deemed prudent to pull down also, as they showed a greater amount of damage after the breaking up of the frost. We called on Mr. Clegg, iron ore merchant, who kindly volunteered to go with us to see the effects produced by the earthquake on the railway near Conkle, and on the sands on both sides of it. On our road we met William Parker Simpson, landlord of Conkle Inn and John Thompson, of Roose Beck, fisherman, the two men who witnessed the extraordinary commotion on the sands,—the throwing up of sand, water, and stones. They are both respectable and creditable men, whose word may be depended upon. We were glad to meet with them, and they both cheerfully accompanied Mr. Clegg and ourselves to the sands on the west side of the railway, where there had been a crack in the earth thirty yards in length. It was then partly obliterated by carting, being in the road along the bottom of the railway embankment, but between the railway and West-field Point there still remained several hollows, or basins, from which at the time of the convulsions, and for some hours after, copious springs of water issued. We were anxious to hear all the particulars the men could give, as they were the only persons on the sands at the time of the occurrence.

W. P. Simpson made the following statement:—"John Thompson and I were coming from Fowla Island, one mile from Rampside, and when we had got nearly half way we saw at a distance from us, a great mass of sand, water, and stone, thrown up into the air higher than a man's

head. It was nearly in a straight line between us and Rampside, and when we got to the place there were two or three holes in the sand, large enough to bury a horse and cart, and in several places near them, the sand was so soft and puddly that they would have mired any one if he had gone on to them. We thought this very strange, but we supposed it was owing to the frost, for we did not feel the least shock, or know anything of an earthquake until we got to Rampside, and saw that everybody was in terror, and the houses sadly shattered. We then went to Conkle, and found a crack in the ground at the foot of the railway embankment, about thirty yards in length, and water was boiling up in a great many places, just like the great spring at Bien Well. ["Bien Well," a copious spring of very pure water, on the shore of Morecambe Bay, five miles north of Rampside, yielding about 500 gallons per minute.] There were more than 800 of them, and they extended above half a mile on the sands towards Barrow, and at one place there were a great many in a straight line, and only two or three yards from each other."



THE ORIGINS AND BUILDING OF A GROUP MEDICAL PRACTICE IN CARNFORTH 1950 to 1985

John Findlater

On May 8, 1950 I returned to the U.K. from RAF service in Malaya. Mid-morning June 1st I arrived in Carnforth for the first time in my life, to work as a locum for Dr Edward (always known as Dr Teddy) Jackson at Robin Hill, Market Street while he went on a month's fishing holiday in North-west Scotland. I was invited back in the winter of 1950 to work as Dr. Teddy's assistant – from 1st October 1950 until the end of April 1951, returning for the month of June to let him go on holiday. In September 1951, while on holiday in Scotland, I was called back to Carnforth to take care of the practice because of Dr Teddy's sudden illness and death. I was then appointed as principal of this NHS medical practice on October 25th 1951.

Thus I inherited a single-handed general practitioner with a list of 2,700 patients; a 'dispensing practice, that is to say I dispensed prescribed medicines to any of my patients who lived more than 2 miles from a chemist; there was quite a heavy midwifery commitment when I attended home confinements as well as those of my patients at Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe or at nursing homes in Lancaster, and Melling. The practice area was broadly speaking bounded by the sea in the west, Lancaster and Morecambe to the south, the Westmorland boundary in the north and the River Lune to the east; they were porous boundaries, because I had a collection of patients in Burton, at Caton and Brookhouse, a few on the northern fringes.

of Lancaster and Morecambe besides one family at Wray and one at Lupton. There was a branch surgery at Silverdale for a couple of hours on two afternoons a week and a message and dropping off place at Sandham's farm Halton later a branch surgery one afternoon a week. To my mind it was the most ideal practice one could wish to have, in beautiful country amongst the friendliest, down-to-earth, hard-working people you could find. It had as its centre the small town of Carnforth (about 3000 population) with a busy railway junction

Responsibility for all this, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year was mine! What is this work/life balance concept? I had one secretary Mary Chalmers (whose brother Tony had the West View garage –see magazine¹) and a dispenser Miss Clarkson (Clarkie) from Bolton-le-Sands. I worked closely with various district nurse/midwives – Carnforth, Bolton-le-Sands, Warton, Silverdale.

The practice had started with Dr William Jackson (birthplace Warton) living at Waterloo Cottage, Bolton-le-Sands from the 1850s who attended patients in the tiny village of Carnforth (294 in 1851 393 in 1861) of a few houses and farms mostly strung along the Garstang/Heronsyke turnpike road and down Warton Rd. He appears in the 1861 census – aged 33, his second child Edward S. aged 4. This son became Dr. Edward S. Jackson ('old' Dr Jackson) settled in Market Street. He is to be found, a bachelor, aged 24 in Main St in Market St, with one servant in the 1881 census. In the 1891 census he is 34 living at 4 Market St, married to Nora aged 28 from Sheffield with 3 children. He moved into Robin Hill when it was built in 1902.² (This is now the Forest Pharmacy and the

photograph displayed on the dispensing counter is of Dr. Jackson) He practised from there until the beginning of the second world war (a very old man) having been joined by his son Dr Edward (or Teddy) after the first world war.

Dr. Berry, his wife Dr S.L. Wray and Dr Neil Hargreaves were also in practice in Carnforth, based at Bank Buildings; they were part of the Milnthorpe-centred practice of 'Byrne, Holmes and Berry', Dr Neil Hargreaves spent part of his time at Carnforth and part at Milnthorpe running a branch at Burton. In addition Dr Caraher was practising from Victoria buildings in New Street: he was not a well man and gave up practice in 1952/3; his small list of patients divided about equally between the Berrys and me, so that I had 3600 patients (just over the limit).

On Jan 1st 1954 I merged my practice with Drs Byrne, Holmes, and Berry. We took on another doctor, Dr Peter T. Fraser, who spent half his time as assistant with me at Robin Hill and half with the Berrys, while Dr Hargreaves went fully to Milnthorpe. Dr Fraser became a partner in 1955 and in September 1956 we moved our Carnforth practices into Ash Trees at the junction of North Road and the A6, previously a private house belonging to Len Wrightson, a patient who had been tragically run down and killed crossing the A6 out of his front door. We had three receptionists but the practice administration was done from Milnthorpe (by Ted Shaw – the practice secretary). Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Farquhar, the MOH district nurses were attached to the practice and did a very small amount of the work in our treatment room besides their district nurse/midwife work; this closer working

relationship worked very well and was extended to Health Visitors and later Psychiatric Social workers; later district nurses and nurse/midwives would become separate.

In 1959 Dr Fraser left the practice and after a spell in Ravenglass and then Argyllshire went to Tasmania. He was replaced by Dr Brian Walker but otherwise we practised as before, but with a growing list of patients. In 1964 we split the big, rather unwieldy practice Milnthorpe and Carnforth going their separate ways. Because Dr Wray (Mrs Berry) had suffered some health problems and the practice numbers were growing, Mrs Berry retired in 1965 and her list was taken by Dr I.B. McIntosh, who also took over the Halton end of the practice. In addition, partly because of requests from our Bolton-le-Sands patients and the retirement of Dr Andrew Brock at Bolton-le-Sands we began a branch surgery at Bolton-le-Sands. Dr Walker also became a Clinical Assistant at the Dermatology Department at Lancaster with Dr Seville two days a week. Bringing the administration back to Carnforth had been something of a headache but with help from Ted Shaw who remained with the Milnthorpe practice (though he lived in the flat over our group surgery at Ash Trees) one of our staff Betty Boak proved able and willing to learn the job and I had to take on a good deal of the responsibility, partly because my friend and colleague Bill Berry was feeling the strain quite badly. Not a natural paper pusher I had had a shortish spell as adjutant at the RAF Hospital at Habbaniyah in Iraq which meant I was not a complete novice. Of course the practice had its solicitors Ratcliffe and Bibby and accountants Cross and Scott in Lancaster. We had increased our receptionist staff and

introduced an appointments system, and instituted a few special clinics – ante-natal, minor surgery, diabetic.

1970 was a terrible year really. Dr McIntosh, wishing to go back to Scotland – where his addiction to playing the bagpipes and his wife's love of haggis and such could be satisfied – found his heart's desire in Stirling and Dr Berry had to take early retirement on health grounds. So, in February we appointed Dr SM Hall to replace Dr McIntosh and in September Dr. K. Lowson to replace Dr Berry. Changes are always unsettling and it takes a little time to bed down...

At this time we were becoming aware that Carnforth was about to have a fairly sudden significant increase in size, new housing down North Rd towards Netherbeck, at Highfield, Grosvenor Place, especially at Crag Bank; also houses at Hazelmount, and here and there round-about at Silverdale and Warton. In July 1973 the list had reached 9,400 and in July 1974, 9,800 and in April 1976 it was 11,200. In addition we were about to become involved in Vocational Training for General Practice. Dr Byrne our ex-senior partner in the pre-1964 partnership had become involved in teaching at Manchester University medical school become head of the new Department of General Practice (he would later become the first Professor of General Practice in England³). With his encouragement our Carnforth Practice became involved in this programme, which was locally centred at the Post-graduate centre in Ashton Rd, Lancaster (John Frankland being the Clinical Tutor there) and the regional programme being run by Dr Roberts at Manchester. I became a Trainer in this programme, with medical students having short attachments

and fully trained doctors having longer attachments – a year - at Ash Trees.

In order to take on this considerable increase in workload, we were able to make a case to the authorities at Preston for another partner. We found an ideal candidate Dr John Shakespeare and appointed him in October 1973. It was also apparent to us that our premises were inadequate. Tentative moves were made involving Dr John Dyer the MOH for Lancaster now about whether the solution might be a Health Centre – ie government-owned premises leased to the practice, with probably other health services based there. As can be imagined this process was a little tortuous, and while exploration of the process was taking place, I visited local Health Centres such as the one at Heysham and at Ambleside with Mrs Boak and Dr Walker. We learnt, in confidence, some of the drawbacks to the idea. To cut a long story short we decided not to proceed but try and adapt Ash Trees by taking in the flat above the surgery and making the whole building our group premises – the office in a much larger room upstairs, as well as the dispensary, two consulting rooms and a library. Dr Shakespeare also became a trainer, so that for a few years there might be two trainees, then I slipped out of this activity.

Partly because Mrs Boak (Betty) was getting a little out of her depth and her health was not as good as it had been, we decided to look for a Practice Manager. We found a very suitable person, Pat Goodwin, a man who had been in a small business in the Lancaster/Morecambe area. Our practice was not exactly a business but because of its size and complexity, the great amount of administrative activity supporting the

purely medical aspects of the practice; in addition the upkeep of our main surgery building had to be looked after as well as rented branch surgeries; with five partners; and a staff of several receptionists, dispenser, practice nurse the work of complying with the details of employment regulations: it is quibbling to deny that it is a business. After a remarkably short time Pat took the position like a duck to water and Betty was retained as his deputy. The whole set-up was transformed, an enormous burden lifted from my shoulders and the doctors could now get on with their real job – medicine. Everything would seem to have been set fair.

Not so: there was a problem. Dr Hall had developed an illness not all that long after he joined the practice which over a period, had become more disabling. The point came where he could not continue his full complement of work – domiciliary visits, night and week-end work. We were able to work out a mutually agreeable solution. Dr Hall worked a full day 5 days a week in the surgery for a reduced share in the partnership. This incidentally solved a perennial problem in general practice – patients having difficulty being seen at short notice at the surgery. Now there was a doctor there, who was also available for telephone advice and he was able to take on much of the work of insurance examinations and the like. Relieved of some time spent in the surgery the partners other than Stuart between them easily shared the domiciliary visiting Stuart would otherwise have done.

But again the practice was growing. Matters were improved when a new small purpose-built surgery was set up at Bolton-le-Sands and two receptionists staffed the place; a

pharmacy was adjacent. It seemed sensible to take in another partner and on this occasion Paul Bates arrived, becoming a partner on 1 October 1880. As well as working at Carnforth, Paul took over the Halton branch surgery now held at the Health Clinic at Halton. In addition he worked sessions as Clinical Assistant at Lancaster Infirmary in the Geriatric Unit.

This is the point, 1985, when I retired -the senior partner of six doctors - well aware that poor old Ash Trees surgery was bursting at the seams and was really not 'fit for purpose' any more. It would be left to my colleagues and successors to take the large group practice into the new era with computerised records and communication and advancing medical technology. There are those who lament the passing of the old-type practice and those who welcome the new; but however you slice it, those trying to respond to the personal medical needs of a large practice are really also directors of a fairly large business involving a staggering amount of money.

1. John Findlater, Anthony Watson Chalmers
2. John Findlater, *Robin Hill, 24 Market Street, Carnforth* Mourholme Magazine 1994, No.2 p13
3. John Findlater, *The Life of Professor PS Byrne, CBE, FRCGP*, Royal College of General Practitioners, 1996

Further Maritime Matters - All at Sea

By Diane Dey

In pursuit of a piece of information that had no connection whatsoever with fishing, I came across a fascinating pamphlet some 70 pages in length and entitled *The Lancashire Sea Fisheries*, a lecture delivered in 1899 at The Chadwick Museum, Bolton by one Charles L Jackson, member of the Institute of Civil Engineers and Honorary Naturalist Director of Southport Aquarium.

Jackson was passionate about fish and sea fishing and was not only an expert on the subject but felt intimately in touch with the industry, having worked with fishermen all his life and lost four of his own crew companions "when the Southport and St Anne's lifeboats were wrecked." His lecture was given and published following a request from the industry to arouse public awareness of the draconian bye-laws introduced by the County Council in response to a recent government Sea Fisheries Act.

"I am at first sight rather in an invidious position tonight he begins, "because I feel very strongly indeed, with the fishermen along the Lancashire coast, that they are being harassed and ill-treated by the group of scientists who have obtained possession of the ears of the County Council and are regulating the fisheries according to their ideas."

These scientists, having pursued their research over 10 years, had not only failed to come up with even one new "solitary fact that wasn't well known 20 years since", they were culpable of being "most ignorant of what they are most assured..... as makes the angels weep."

"It is hard to fight against what have now become vested interests but justice and common sense must prevail and in time the present advisers of the C.C. will be glad for the public to forget the

cruelty and hardship they have inflicted on a hard-working and deserving class by their legislation in the dark." He asserts that the Council are spending £3,000 per annum on the regulation of the industry and goes on to say that "I was shocked to find that the idea that seemed to possess them [LCC] was not that information should be sought, but that something must be done to stop some people from doing something..... The question of the exhaustion of our Sea Fisheries is practically as old as the hills in spite of the fact that yield increases every year. There is, I believe, a clause in Magna Carta prohibiting certain nets being used because certain sea fishes were falling off..... fisheries ebb and flow beyond the control of man" and he cites the example of whiting which far from flourishing under protective legislation, actually disappeared and up to the 1850's there was a most important herring industry in the Bay with "more than 200 boats fishing every night but more than 30 years since, the herring deserted the Bay. Why, no one knows..... I fancy it is a question of food but old fishermen say that the Artillery practice at Fleetwood and Morecambe was the cause."

He then launches into a well-argued and unforgiving case against the legislation and the management of the Lancashire sea fisheries in particular. He pointed out for instance, the "enormous power of reproduction of cockles" and fish species. "The female cod deposits on average 9 million eggs..... the conger eel from my own observations [!!!] deposits 14 to 15 million eggs..... if the eggs laid along the Lancashire coast alone in one year were all to hatch and grow to adult size, you could not sail a ship across to Ireland."

He took the strongest exception to the vilification of the hard-working fisherman as rapists of the sea. One bye-law was to restrict the size of netting mesh used by the shrimpers to the detriment of the fisherman and without understanding the implications. The "shrewd" shrimpers, he declared, chose to net away from small fish shoals that impeded their work and are the best judge

of size of mesh - what is good for their business is also good for the ecology of the fishing grounds. And "What about the wives and children of the poor fishermen?" The loss to the families caused by increasing the size of mesh he estimated at some £150,000. "No wonder Dutch shrimps are sold in Southport since this authority was established..... no wonder the fishermen feel they are cruelly and wantonly shut out..... if the present persecution continues..... the character of the men must deteriorate." [The Dutch presumably had seen no need to impose restrictions on their own fishing industry]. "..... in regard to size of mesh and later on in regard to size of cockles and mussels, Dame Nature and the laws of political economy have provided absolute gauges which cannot be violated by the fishermen except at their own cost..... The more man takes, the more room he leaves and the more will grow to full size", the latter point he explained at length by reference to his own experiments and observation.

Controlling the width of the cockle rake he equally regarded as misguided - "Twenty years ago, the railway companies took from Morecambe Bay alone 3,000 tons/annum of cockles and they probably take more today..... A flock of scoter numbering 1000 would destroy per year 60 tons and the oystercatcher is responsible for an enormous destruction of cockles..... I hope I will have shown you the misery that is being wrought....."

Further, he illustrates the "stupidity" of the means of regulation. "When these bye-laws were passed, it was decided to have a steamer in order to 'protect the fisheries'". This "toy" as he deemed it, was fit only for Windermere, not the open sea.

In the Manchester Guardian 17 May 1899, it was reported that the cocklers of Morecambe Bay were petitioning the Board of Trade for the relaxation of 'the oppressive Bye-laws on the grounds that they cannot make a living.....' and were asking for a

"deputation" to go out and judge for themselves. The plea was rejected.

Jackson believed that more money would be "hopelessly squandered" but "what can you expect.....with such a proposal as this:" he quotes, "When the time comes, as it probably will when it will be cheaper and surer to farm fish than to hunt them, when fish are bred, reared and fed up for market....." "Certainly", he thinks, "the wildest scheme which ever was floated on The Stock Exchange is the soberest common sense compared with such a proposal....." With the benefit of hindsight, do we see this as weakening his argument?

In summary, he concludes that the legislation is unworkable, thus confounding the first principle of law-making. "As soon as the public understand the question, the whole mass of legislation founded on dense ignorance will be swept away....." He proposed more quality "original" research. "We are a rich county; we can afford the capital for anything that is worth it."

Mourholme Local History Society Meeting 14th Sept. 2006

Mourholme Local History Society has returned to the newly refurbished Yealand Village Hall for their meetings. At the September meeting, marking the beginning of the autumn season, the chairman welcomed new committee members, Rod Ireland and Barbara Keegan and thanked retiring members, John Findlater, Robin Greaves, Clive Holden and May Yates, for their hard work and commitment. Members were reminded that the Society is host for the Lancashire Local History Federation 'At Home' on Saturday 7th October at Borwick Village Hall.

Dr Michael Winstanley, Senior Lecturer in the History Department at Lancaster University began the autumn season with a fascinating tale of maps, plots and politics of the first Elizabethan age.

William Cecil, Lord Burghley, owned an atlas of England and Wales which included a map of Lancashire. He was Queen Elizabeth I's principal advisor, and it has been assumed since an article by Joseph Gillow, a Roman Catholic historian, was published in 1907, that crosses on the map marked the houses of catholic gentry who might be suspected of treason towards the protestant state and therefore needed watching. However work done by Dr Winstanley and his students show that puritan's houses are also marked and that the map probably predates the Spanish Armada threat.

Dr Winstanley was able to show the amazing detail of churches, chapels and houses and even astronomical signs indicating market days, in his presentation which showed enlarged images of a vellum map from the National Archives. Sites of beacons are also shown, including that on Warton Crag. The better known paper copy owned by Lord Burghley and now in the British Library, is not as elaborate, but still would have given vital information about the country to the government of the day. However its real purpose is still a mystery.

Mourholme Local History Society Meeting 11th Oct. 2006

Mike Davies-Shiel's comprehensive knowledge of Cumbria's industrial archaeology provided members and visitors to the October meeting of the Mourholme Local History Society with

an extensive overview of various early industries in the county, concerned with linen; flax processing, soap making, bleaching and paper making. He illustrated his talk "From Rags to Riches" with examples of industrial sites, still to be found in the area.

Very early evidence of the use of linen has been found in Bronze Age burial mounds in Cumbria and there are extensive archaeological indications that this textile played an important part in the county's industrial development. Signs can be seen of the retting ponds, where the flax was steeped, the streams that powered the mills that were needed to process the cloth, the buildings themselves and some of the machinery used.

During the Napoleonic Wars bounties were paid to encourage flax and hemp growing, so that the navy could be supplied with enough rope and sailcloth to provide the battleships with their motive power; rigging and sails.

Paper making used linen rags and this industry can be traced back in the area to the 17th century, with the firm James Cropper still carrying on the tradition.

Mourholme Local History Society Meeting 9th Nov. 2006

The present day serenity of Cumbria's "Glorious River" the Eden reflects its Celtic name "gliding stream", in contrast to the bustle of the 1870s as 6000 workers built the railway. Mr W. M. Johnston's illustrated talk to the Mourholme Local History Society at their November meeting in Yealand Village Hall

drew on knowledge, particularly of the Mallerstang valley, gained when he lived in Warcup during the 1940s.

The Eden valley area has connections with events and people of both local and national significance. Here can be found 16th and 17th century cottages built on the sites of Danish settlements and Pendragon, the castle with Arthurian connections and maybe Merlin's buried treasure. Kirkby Stephen church has a wild boar tusk and the tombs of the de Warton family. The tusk may indicate that, in the 15th century, Wild Boar Fell was the place where Sir Richard Musgrove killed the last wild boar. The de Warton family of Warton Hall founded the school in 1526 and Lord Phillip supported the restoration of Charles II. The 1600s saw Lady Ann Clifford involved with the restoration of Pendragon Castle and Appleby and Outhgill churches. The almshouses she founded are still in use. George Birkbeck, who founded what is now Birkbeck College in the University of London, in 1823, was born in the area, and the eminent scientist Michael Faraday (1791-1867) has a connection with Eden as his father worked as a smith in Outhgill.

Mr Johnston concluded by saying that the whole river is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), but was concerned that United Utilities is taking too much water out of the river.

Mourholme Local History Society Meeting 14th Dec. 2006

The Society met in Yealand village hall on 14th December, when the speaker was Colin Shellbourn, the cartoonist for the Westmorland Gazette. This was a very entertaining talk, and just right for our pre-Christmas meeting and dinner.

Mr Shellbourn answered some of the most commonly asked questions. Firstly, which comes first, the caption or the drawing, to which the answer is "the idea". He also said that it was quite an advantage for a cartoonist not to have had a traditional art training. He stressed, too, that drawing the weekly cartoon for the newspaper was not his only job. In fact the cartoon can only be done at the last minute, because it always focuses on one of the news items on the front page. He mentioned a couple of occasions when the cartoon has got him into trouble, and pointed out that some of his cartoons are not meant to be funny, but to make a point, for example about the cost of housing, and second homes.

He surveyed the history of cartoons, which started in 18th Century Britain with the likes of Hogarth. Then he showed examples of the work of his favourite cartoonists, starting with Pont in the 1930s, taking in Fougasse, the WWII cartoonist, Giles, Thelwell (who was a trained artist), Searle, Bill Waterson (Kelvin & Hobbs), and Calman, of The Times.

He concluded by demonstrating some basic techniques, saying that it was easy to do "when you know how". It's a pity that we cannot reproduce some his work here, but if you buy the Westmorland Gazette regularly, or his series of postcards, or lap maps, or walking books, you will be familiar with it.

Mourholme Local History Society Meeting 11th Jan. 2007
The Society started off the New Year with a talk entitled "The Holy Wells and Spas of NW England and Yorkshire", given by Rod Ireland, a member of the Society, on January 11, at Yealand Village Hall. Rod explained that his interest in the

subject arose out of his work as a geologist and hydrologist, and a map showing the locations of wells and spas demonstrated how surprisingly many there were in the area.

Wells tap underground water sources. Their main function is for drinking water, but other functions were (and could still be) veneration, in the case of holy wells, and therapy, in the case of spas. Their names can be derived from geographical features, family or estate names, description, use, and, very commonly, of Christian or Christianised pagan origin (eg Senset – St Oswald's – Well in Warton).

Votive objects from pagan times have been found in wells. Most were Christianised about the 7th century, but some remained pagan as late as the 12th century. There is some regional variation in names; St Mary and St Helen seem countrywide, but Saints Cuthbert and Oswald are common in the north.

Spas are of various kinds: fresh water, sulphurous, chalybeate, saline and thermal (of which last there are none in the north). Saline treatments were mainstream in UK until the 1940s (hydrotherapy), when they dropped out of use. They are still popular in the rest of Europe.

Rod concluded by listing some local wells, such as Bardswell, Cove Well, Dogslack Well and Bank Well, all in Silverdale, and others at Leighton Hall, Beetham and Heversham. The nearest spas are at Shap, and St Agnes Well at Humphrey Head.

Mourholme Local History Society Meeting 8th Feb. 2007

In Kendal Parish Church are tombs and memorials to two prominent local families, the Bellinghams of Burneside and the Parrs of Kendal. Martha Bates, a local historian, was able to convey something of their lives and times to members of the Mourholme Local History Society, at their February meeting.

Both families gained their estates in the Kendal area from judicious marriages. William de Parr, from Parr, in the parish of Prescot in Lancashire married Elizabeth de Ros heiress to her grandfather Sir Thomas de Ros of Kendal Castle, they were granted possession of the castle and its lands by King Richard II in 1391 after Sir Thomas's death. In about 1359 Robert de Bellingham from Bellingham in Northumberland, married Margaret, the daughter and heiress of Gilbert of Burneside.

William Parr's grandson, Thomas increased his status and income through increased land holding, he also received money from such things as market tolls and the profits from the local fairs and the bakery in Kendal. He enjoyed royal patronage and wielded influence through various local offices such as justice of the peace, deputy-sheriff for Westmorland and Member of Parliament.

The national unrest and weak central control caused by the struggle for the crown between the Lancastrians and the Yorkists in the 1440 and 1450s was reflected in local power struggles. A feud, probably over land holdings, between the Parrs and the Bellinghams, had repercussions in both Westmorland and in Westminster. In 1441 Henry Bellingham made a complaint to the court of Chancery about an attempted

attack on his house in Burneside. He was not satisfied with the outcome and took matters into his own hands four years later, when Bellingham's brothers and servants attacked Thomas Parr and his servants when Thomas was in London as a Member of Parliament. Despite ignoring the order to appear before the King's Bench, the Bellinghams were pardoned and the parties came to an agreement.

The Parrs continued to hold positions of influence, with Thomas' great-grand-daughter Katherine becoming Henry VIII's last and surviving sixth wife in 1543, her brother William became Marquis of Northampton. Kendal castle passed out of Parr ownership in the late 16th century and gradually became the picturesque ruin that can be seen today.

Alan Bellingham bought Levens Hall from the Redman family in about 1490 and the family continued there until another Alan Bellingham sold his estates to Colonel James Grahme in 1689. His descendants, the Bagot family now own the house. Members of the Bellingham family also went to Ireland and to America. The ruined pele tower, forming part of Burneside Hall, can still be seen as part of a privately owned working farm about 3 miles outside Kendal.

Meeting reports prepared by Jane Parsons & Jenny Ager

LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION 'AT HOME' 2006

The Mourholme Society hosted the Lancashire Local History federation 'At Home' on Saturday 7th October. The venue was

the Borwick and Priest Hutton Village Hall, which proved to be an excellent location, being light and airy, with good facilities and plentiful parking space. We were able to have access to the hall the previous evening to set out the chairs and tables, and erect our exhibition. The Society's committee looked after the provision of tea, coffee and biscuits at appropriate intervals, and the lunch was catered by Jan's Pantry of Burton. This was generous and delicious (and the same caterers are to provide our Christmas buffet).

After Registration, and a welcome by the Society Chairman, Jenny Ager, the first talk, with slides, was 'Mediaeval villages', given by Mr Tom Clare, formerly Cumbria County Archaeologist, and now Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at Liverpool John Moore's University. He discussed the importance, to our understanding of history, of such village features as Back and other lanes, pounds, burghage plots, evidence of other forms of agriculture once carried on in the area which can be detected with the sun at different levels, and even what we can learn from the position of trees, wood boundaries, and other boundary types.

After a brief coffee break, Dr Hilary Walklett talked about Morecambe Bay, its ports, commerce and highways. Those of us who live in the Morecambe area are aware of some of this, but it must have been a considerable surprise to visitors from other parts of Lancashire to discover how important Morecambe Bay was in the transport structure of the area, before the days of reasonable roads, and, in particular, the railway. Cattle were imported from Ireland, timber and other products from the Baltic, and, until a couple of hundred years

ago, the Bay must have presented a picture of busyness, dotted with traditional craft.

And then for something quite different. Miss Susan Wilson introduced us to some worthies of Lancaster and area. Some, like Richard Owen and Lawrence Binyon, are well known, though it was perhaps not realised that they came from Lancaster. Others were less known, such as the Silverdale writer, Gordon Bottomley.

After lunch, during which people from different societies were able to mingle and find out about each other, four options were on offer: a guided tour of the main historic sites of Warton with Janet Nelson, an accredited guide from Lancaster; a guided tour of the significant and fascinating Quaker Meeting House and Old School in Yealand Conyers, led by Jim Jarvis and Robin Greaves; a visit to Carnforth Station, led by Clive Holden and Ken Broadhurst, including a slide presentation; finally, either a slide presentation of local history through old postcards given by Rod Ireland, or a tour of Borwick village with Gina Hacker and Peter Sharpe.

The Committee was gratified by the very positive feedback on the day's events which we were hearing from participants. We certainly felt that the day went well, and hope that this was the general feeling.

ARCHIVE REPORT – Winter 2006/7

The use of a basement room at Warton vicarage for the Archive was quite literally heaven-sent; not sure what we would have done without Canon Hall's kind intervention. However, it is not ideal, damp being the primary concern and when news got out that Warton Library building was redundant and empty we immediately made enquiries to the Estates Dept at LCC.

To cut a long story short, the response was quite a surprise, not at all what we were expecting. As Archbishop Hutton School has no library and was using the village facility, plans are about to be submitted to the County for an extension to the school which will incorporate a library, IT room and a community room with independent access. The suggestion at this early stage of our involvement is that the Archive could be held in locked store along one wall of the library, a dedicated time would be arranged for use of and the public would have access as usual by appointment with the Archivist.

Warton Parish Council have committed £5000 to the project and if the MLHS are fortunate enough to be included in the scheme, we would probably need to seek funding to finance the requisition of the storage units required. There are several options open to us and this is not seen as a problem -just the usual mass of form-filling! Colin Peacock, a member of Warton Parish Council, came to the MLHS January committee meeting to fill us in on the background to the proposal and to answer questions. In response to his suggestion, we have written a letter to the school intimating our support and putting our case for inclusion in the scheme. Whilst it is too early to get excited, there is room for optimism.

Diane Dey

In the last Archive Report it was stated that *Dorothy Roberts has been doing a huge job of listing the contents*. This should have read Dorothy Spencer....Apologies to Dorothy.....Ed.

PROGRAMME 2007-2008

(Indoor Meetings at the Yealand Village Hall, at 7.30 p.m. 2nd Thursday of the month*, September to April.)**

Subscription - £9 for individual members, £17 for family or school members. Visitors are welcome at a fee of £2 each meeting.

Autumn 2007

September 13th

The Big House - How it Was in some of the mansions around Windermere through the voices of their employees.
Mrs Judith Shingler - Ambleside Oral History Group

October 11th

Whatever is the topic of his choice, an evening with
Dr Alan Crosby should not be missed.

November 8th

The Settle-Carlisle Railway- a journey in time with
Mr David Alison

December 13th

Xmas Buffet (must book) followed by a dip into The History of Toys. **Mrs June DeCann**

Spring 2008

January 10th

Fairs and Hirings. Fair deals? **Dr Stephen Caunce**

February 14th

Roman Lancaster - you haven't heard it all before!
Professor David Shotton always has something more to add to the Imperial mosaic.

March 13th

The Life and Times of the Women Pirates. Stirring stuff with
Mr Brian Halliwell, artist.

April 10th

AGM. followed by The Astonishing Journey of Bishop John Leyburne, RC, 1615-1702. **Mr Derek Longmire**