THE MOURHOLME MAGAZINE OF LOCAL HISTORY

2009 – 2010, No.1 Price 75p

Contents:

2009-2010 No.1

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

The Mourholme Magazine of Local History is issued by the Mourholme Local History Society, for the study of the history of the ancient Parish of Warton, with its seven constituent townships; Borwick, Carnforth, Priest Hutton, Silverdale, Warton-with-Lindeth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne.

The Society is named after the Manor of Mourholme, the home of the medieval Lords of Warton, their seat, the Mourholme Castle, stood on the site now covered by Dockacres.

Yearly subscriptions are £10.00 (£18.00 for family or school membership) and include evening lectures, copies of the Mourholme Magazine and access to the Society's archival material.

Application for membership should be made to the treasurer Brian Ager, 51 The Row, Silverdale, Carnforth, LA5 0UG (01524 701491 brianager@btopenworld.com).

Contributions to the magazine – articles, letters, notes – are invited. Please send them to the current editor Jenny Ager, 51 The Row, Silverdale, Carnforth, LA5 0UG (01524 701491 jenny_ager@btopenworld.com)

* * * * *

NEIL STOBBS
5 MAY 1931 – 22 OCTOBER 2009

It is with much sadness that we announce the death of Neil Stobbs a valued long term member of the Mourholme Local History Society. Neil and Ann Stobbs came to the area in the 1980s and very soon joined the Society, working hard on the committee, Ann as secretary and Neil as treasurer.

Neil's wide experience and expertise enabled him to play an invaluable role in the planning, preparation and publication of the Society's books. *How it Was: A North Lancashire Parish in the Seventeenth Century* (1998); Paul Booth's *Warton in the Middle Ages* (revised and reprinted 2004); *Warton 1800-1850: How a North Lancashire Parish Changed* (2005) and lastly *Warton Parish 1850–1900: Borwick, Carnforth, Priest Hutton, Silverdale, Warton, Yealands* (2009). Neil died just three days before the launch of the last book.

Neil Stobbs came originally from Sunderland. Following a degree in agriculture he taught agriculture and biology in schools in the Hexham and Haydon Bridge areas. Neil took early retirement in 1981 and became involved as administrator at Heatherslaw Corn Mill in Northumberland and then at the Heron Corn Mill in Beetham. Ann and Neil enjoyed travelling, particularly in the South West of the United States of America, and visited many States, including Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, California and Nevada.

Neil's extensive knowledge about a diverse range of subjects, including agriculture, population change, census records,

local history generally and photography enabled him to play a vital part in the Mourholme Book Group. He also worked with Leslie Rocky the artist, who was involved with the Mourholme's seventeenth century book. He spent many hours, using his computer skills to prepare the text and illustrations for publication and the Society is indebted to him for his commitment and dedication.

Neil's wife Ann and daughter Jane survive him.

2009 SUMMER OUTING: DALES GATEWAY

On July 22nd 2009 members of the Mourholme Local History Society and friends enjoyed at trip to the Yorkshire Dales with David Alison, who runs Tracks North Tours.

Our first stop was in Skipton where we could enjoy the historical delights of the castle and the Craven museum, or the more modern interests of exploring the market, shops and cafés. We then had a cruise on the earliest built part of the Leeds Liverpool canal, completed in 1774. Building work continued for 46 years, the link to the Lancaster canal was finished in 1816 and indeed a link to the docks in Liverpool was only opened in March 2009. At 127 miles long it is the longest single canal in the country, it crosses the Pennines and links the river Aire in Leeds with the river Mersey in Liverpool and was used to transport coal, limestone and textile goods. Commercial traffic did continue until 1982, but the canal is now busy with leisure craft with people able to enjoy the scenery at walking pace. We experienced sailing through swing bridges and admired the trendy looking eating places in town and later when we had passed through various swing bridges into the countryside, the flower lined banks and wildlife.

Our next excitement was a steam train ride on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway. This runs for 5 miles from Keighley to Oxenhope, it was built in 1867 by local mill owners. The line closed in 1962, but was very soon taken over by a preservation society and reopened in 1968. As we travelled along the line our guide pointed out Oakworth station and various points on the line which were used in the film *The Railway Children*.

Our last stop was in Haworth where we were able to visit the Parsonage Museum, former home to the famous Brontë family. Silverdale has a connection to the family as the Rev. Carus Wilson founded the school for Clergy Daughters at Cowan Bridge, which was attended by the Brontë sisters; the Rev. Wilson lived at Cove House in Silverdale.

We ended our trip with a scenic drive though the countryside after an interesting and varied day.

WARTON PARISH 1850-1900
BORWICK, CARNFORTH, PRIEST HUTTON, SILVERDALE, WARTON, YEALANDS

Clive Holden

In October 2005 the Mourholme Society Book Group launched the book "*Warton 1800-1850: How a North Lancashire Parish Changed*", and breathed a sigh of satisfaction at the accomplishment of a task, albeit an enjoyable one. No sooner had that book been published, however than the question was asked: "What next? Do we rest on our laurels, or do we attempt to cover the second half of the nineteenth century?" It was soon evident that the will to go one was there, especially as members of the group had already studied much of the period, and so, after further research, we gradually started to put things together. Unfortunately circumstances prevented Jean Chatterley from playing an active part, and the earlier untimely death of Michael Wright was a serious blow, but Sheila Jones, with artistic talent to add to her other attributes, was a most useful addition to the group.

Sadly there were casualties along the way. The Rev. Arthur Penn died before the final stages of production, but not before he had contributed the bulk of Chapter 7. John Marshall, our mentor, attended several of the early meetings before ill health enforced his absence, and his death is also to be lamented. Another very sad loss was that of Neil Stobbs, who died only a few days before the October 2009 book launch. Neil, who was regarded as our computer expert amongst other things, had struggled on manfully under severe handicap for a considerable time. John Findlater was prevented from contributing to the final stages of the book,

but he too had completed his task, and Chapter 8 is a tribute to him.

There was, of course, much more to it than just writing a book. Not surprisingly members chose to work on those aspects of nineteenth century life which interested them most, though at the same time hoping not to entirely neglect other important topics. There was constant revision of material; editing of chapters to keep them to a reasonable length, proof reading; but in the end a final version was approved and off it went to the printer.

We were most grateful to John and Joyce Jenkinson, who made their home available for many of our meetings, though John's health problems meant that he was less actively involved. Later meetings were held at Joan Clarke's home.

The book launch in Warton Parish Church in October was a success, graced as it was by the High Sheriff of Lancashire, Susie Reynolds, of Leighton Hall, and the Mayor of Carnforth, Councillor Paul Gardener, and good publicity was obtained in the local press.

So much for "*Warton 1850-1900*". It is hoped that the book will give as much pleasure to those who read it as to those who wrote it. If this is achieved, then the authors will have been well rewarded for their efforts.

How about 1901 to 1950, or even eighteenth century Warton? Dare we anticipate a flood of volunteers?

THE MEMOIRS OF HARRY BENNETT 1902 – 2000
Introduction
William A. Rowlinson

As one speeds up the M6 heading for the outstanding beauties of the Lake District or the more distant Scottish Highlands, it is all too easy to miss an area which lies due west, shortly after passing Lancaster.

All that is seen from the road is a grey council estate and odd settlements of newer buildings scattered on a hillside. But then, as the motorway descends to the plain across the Keer, a 500ft. outcrop named Warton Crag can be seen to the west easily identified by the hideous quarry gouged out of its southern face.

From the summit of Warton Crag, one can survey the magical panorama of Morecambe Bay looking westward to the Kent estuary with Furness and the Lakeland Hills towering in the distance, the flat coastal plain of Morecambe and Heysham to the south, and the rising table-top of Ingleborough and the Pennines to the east. Almost directly under the Crag, or so it would appear from the viewpoint at the summit, lies the township of Carnforth. Not a particularly attractive settlement although one can nevertheless immediately see why this quiet little hamlet in the early nineteenth century became a focal point for three railway companies and later a centre of iron making for some seventy years.

This is the area in which both Harry Bennett and I were raised. He left at the age of nineteen to attend training college in Leeds in 1921. Having completed his teaching

qualifications, he found work in Manchester and has remained there to the present day.

I left in 1960 at the age of thirteen when my parents acquired a grocery business in Harrogate.

In many ways, having studied Harry Bennett's *Memoirs*, I feel that he still considers his home to be Carnforth. I feel much the same.

It is a fascinating place to spend one's boyhood days living in such an area of contrasts – a gaunt industrial small town, pretty villages, a multitude of interesting walks, spectacular views of the Bay and the Cumbrian mountains and above all friendly people.

I hope his recollections will illustrate the comradeship and hardship which past generations experienced in order to survive.

It is firstly a potted history of one's family development over a span of century but I think it is much more than this. It is a testament to progress.

William Rowlinson 1983

William Rowlinson is Harry Bennett's great nephew, grandson of Harry's sister Agnes. Agnes was nine years older than Harry.

HARRY BENNETT'S MEMOIRS

Carnforth Ironworks

About one hundred and fifty years ago a group of Manchester businessmen, headed by Herbert John Walduck, an iron and copper merchant, decided to promote a company to smelt Furness haematite at Carnforth. The railways made the transportation of raw materials to his site accessible – haematite from Furness and coke from the Durham coalfield. Limestone for fluxing was in plentiful supply in the district.

The site for the Ironworks was to be in the triangle formed by the three railway lines not far from the River Keer where supplies of water were to be utilised. Under the supervision of Edward Barton, who came from Stainton, near Penrith in Cumberland, and whose previous iron making experience had been in Teesside and West Cumberland, the works was constructed. All the thousand and one things necessary for making pig iron were built, blast furnaces; huge steam engines and stoves to heat the blast; hoppers for coke; bays for iron ore; rail tracks. The first pig-iron was made in 1866. The Ironwork's chimney, 220 feet high, was to dominate the Carnforth skyline until 1933.

Without men all the Ironworks construction would be useless. Where would the men come from? Very few adults could read, never mind write, in those days, but by some mysterious grapevine, the news spread far and wide. It had to, for the natives were few, had no iron making skill and what is more, preferred the place as it was.

Workers' cottages were built at Millhead and on the Carnforth side of the river Keer. The houses were two up, two down, built as cheaply as possible. Downstairs was the back room with its cold water tap over a shallow slopstone.

This was the kitchen, bathroom and dining room, in fact the chief room in the house used for everything apart from sleeping, confinements and deaths.

Much later, when it was suggested that men doing very hot dirty work should have a home with a bathroom, this was shrugged off with the tale that someone somewhere, when provided with such an amenity, used it to store coal.

Across from the back doors of such housing was a row of single-storey earth closets and utility sheds for coal, wood, washing clothes and even for keeping hens and ducks. The river below took all the waste water and the aforesaid ducks. There was no sewerage as such, for the contents of the earth closets, sans earth, but with ashes as a substitute, were emptied by night soil men, during the hours of darkness, perhaps once a week if lucky.

From the south came sturdy young men, skilled in iron making, even if it was wrought and not cast iron. And from over the sea came unskilled, but very strong youths to do all those jobs done by labourers, the chief of which was pig lifting. This was a euphemism for breaking up the combs of pig iron with a sledgehammer into pieces small enough to be lifted into the waiting railway wagons.

Thomas Bennett and the Road North

"I'm sorry Mrs Bennett, but I will have to take off his leg". It was in Dudley Port, Staffordshire in the year of Our Lord, 1871 and there on the bed lay her delirious husband. The parish doctor had just examined the leg and it was evident that blood poisoning had set in for the whole limb was a hard shiny red. Very soon, although it seemed like ages to his wife, the operation was performed. On the kitchen table

(their only table) the poisoned leg was cut and sawn off by a penny-a-week practitioner assisted by another giving the patient whiffs of chloroform.

The patient, Will Bennett, my grandfather, died a few days later in the Poor Law Institution Hospital aged about 45, leaving a widow, two sons aged 8 and 10 and two girls aged 6 and 7.

As a boy early in the twentieth century, I was used to seeing this very table, with its large stain made by the disinfectant. My father, Thomas Alfred Benjamin Bennett had been the boy of 8. During these early years of my life, I was privileged to learn a great deal from my father for, when he was free on a Sunday morning, we would go for long walks on numerous paths to and from Crag Road or on Warton Crag itself. I must have been a good listener on these walks, for he seemed to take the opportunity to think aloud and re-live his early life in South Staffordshire.

A Staffordshire man would automatically share his little with others of the same wherever he happened to be. There were no rules or organisations. It was hospitality of a primitive kind. Like helped like. There were Friendly Societies, Co-operative Societies and so forth, but really all these self-help bodies were in being to stave off the frightening fears of illness, accident or death.

At the ripe old age of 8, my father got a job leading a horse and cart. Before long, he went down one of the many fairly shallow coal mines which proliferated in the Dudley area. This job apparently only lasted for one day because his mother had worried herself sick about the dangers involved. Then followed a spell at a ropewalk, turning the handle, which twisted the strands. As he told me all those years ago:

"If I turned too fast, the rope was too tight and some strands broke. If I turned too slowly, the rope was too soft and uneven. Whatever I did was wrong and the rope-maker came and gave me a clout."

Hand brick-making and beer fetching as the lowliest member of a puddling team followed before, at the age of 17, he left the Black Country for good and tramped northwards first and then westwards.

Two things caused my father to embark on this marathon journey, by way of Scunthorpe, Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester and Darwen to Carnforth.

After the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, the £200,000,000 indemnity which France had to pay created a boom. This was followed, almost inevitable, by a massive slump. To compound this disaster came the introduction of cheap Bessemer steel, which put paid to wrought iron manufacture, made by puddling and steam hammering.

So my father was faced with the problem of where to go to find work. He finally decided to head for the North Country and eventually settled in Carnforth. My father first saw the River Keer in 1880. He had walked from Dudley Port, Staffordshire, because of unemployment, looking for work, zigzagging from iron works to iron works. He walked almost 500 miles calling at the iron works. He would ask, "Is there anyone from Dudley Port working here?" If there was he would make it his business to contact them. The Dudley men and women were very hospitable as far as their means allowed and he told me as a boy that he stayed at Scunthorpe, Frodingham, Rotherham, Darwen and Irlam until he was given a job at Carnforth Ironworks.

Every blast furnace required three teams to keep it going night and day all the year round. It was a precarious life, as when a furnace was blown out, many were sacked. In this way he went to Ulverston, Barrow-in-Furness, Askham, Millom. Each time he crossed Arnside viaduct on foot like all the other unemployed workmen. They all seemed to walk. Once, when I said, "Dad, hadn't you any money for the rail fare?" he replied "Of course I had, but why spend it when I could walk?"

From the census records it can be seen that Harry Bennet's father lived at 24 Albert Street, Millhead, on the Warton side of the river Keer, with his widowed mother and siblings. Afterwards he lived at 12 Albert Street, with his wife Sarah, a member of the Davis family from Bolton-le-Sands, moving later to 36 William Street, still in Millhead.

To be continued.

The editor would like to thank Barry Ayre for his generous permission in allowing use of Harry Bennett's papers.

THE CARNFORTH RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

Clive Holden

The Rifle Volunteer movement was first set up at the time when there was threat of invasion by Napoleon, but after his defeat it was allowed to lapse until the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny had shown serious weaknesses in the British Army system, and it became imperative to have a volunteer force strong enough to repel an invasion by potential enemies. However, it was only after the Childers reforms of 1880, following the Cardwell reforms of 1871, that Volunteer Battalions were linked to their local regiments, and a detachment was formed in Carnforth to become part of the Lancaster Volunteers, linked to the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment based at its new barracks at Bowerham.

At first the idea was that Carnforth and Bolton-le-Sands should raise a company of artillery volunteers,[1] but this idea fell through, and instead a Rifle Corps (sic) was to be formed at Carnforth under Sgt. Grace.[2] A month later, in July 1883, it was announced that the Carnforth Rifle Volunteers consisted of forty men, none of them in uniform, and only half of them with rifles.[3] Some six weeks later still they were to have marched to the accompaniment of Carnforth Brass Band to Warton, an event which was curtailed by rain. No reason was given for the march; possibly it was to show off newly acquired uniforms and weapons, but we shall never know.[4] In October of 1883 their marksmanship was tested at Lancaster, but of the fourteen who took part only four reached a satisfactory standard.[5] Shortly after this they attended a service (at Carnforth Parish Church?), and it is known that they had also acquired a drill room adjoining the Station Hotel.[6]

For several months there were no more reports of the Carnforth Volunteers, but the *Lancaster Guardian* of 8th March 1884 announced that the Carnforth detachment of 1st Volunteer Battalion Royal Lancaster Regiment would drill on the following Thursday at 7.45p.m. Throughout the summer of 1884 similar announcements were made: they were drilled variously by Sergeants Brooks, Green and Grace, usually, but not always, on Thursdays. On one occasion they were instructed to parade at Lancaster with rifles and side arms (bayonets?),[7] and on another, along with some Volunteers from Lancaster, they had their first drill on Carnforth Cricket Club's old field (which one?), after marching to Higher (sic) Kellet with the Lancaster Band.[8] Other highlights of that summer were attendance at the unveiling of the Cavendish statue at Barrow,[9] and the annual camp at Grange in August. Even later, in November, the Carnforth detachment attended a parade for the Mayor of Lancaster.[10]

As previously, little was heard of the Volunteers in the winter months, but in April 1885, it was reported that they had received Martini-Henry rifles (in place of what? Snider Enfield?), and parades were held at Carnforth (at least once in full dress), Lancaster (several times in full dress), and on one occasion at Bolton-le-Sands. Camp was again at Grange in August.[11]

In 1886 the usual announcements continued, with some of the parades being held at Bolton-le-Sands (Bolton-le-Sands also had a detachment), and on another occasion at Giant Axe, Lancaster. In early August the 1st Volunteer Battalion was in camp on the Isle of Man,[12] and in September the Carnforth detachment again had their marksmanship tested.[13]

Only one further reference to the Carnforth detachment has been found (in the *Lancaster Guardian* in 1887),[14] but that is probably because H.Q. turned to other means of communication. It is quite possible that the Carnforth detachment survived until 1908, when, with the Haldane reforms and the formation of the Territorial Army, the Volunteer Force ceased to exist as such.

Did any of your ancestors serve in the Volunteer Force? If so, perhaps they left mementoes such as photographs or medals for shooting proficiency. Any further information about the Carnforth Volunteers will be warmly welcomed.

1. Lancaster Guardian, April 29th 1882.
2. Lancaster Guardian, June 9th 1883.
3. Lancaster Guardian, July 14th 1883.
4. Lancaster Guardian, September 1st 1883.
5. Lancaster Guardian, October 20th 1883.
6. Lancaster Guardian, October 27th 1883.
7. Lancaster Guardian, April 26th 1884.
8. Lancaster Guardian, May 24th 1884.
9. Lancaster Guardian, May 17th 1884.
10. Lancaster Guardian, November 15th 1884.
11. Lancaster Guardian, July 25th 1885.
12. Lancaster Guardian, August 7th & 14th 1886.
13. Lancaster Guardian, September 18th 1886.
14. Lancaster Guardian, July 23rd 1887.

SOME CAKES FROM LANCASHIRE

Jenny Ager

I once visited the Lancashire Record Office in Preston on 27th November and was surprised as I got to the top of the stairs to see the door to the lecture room, normally only available to prebooked groups, standing wide open. From the room came the sound of talking and the smell of coffee. I asked what was happening, only to be told that it was Lancashire Day and the staff of the Record Office and Friends were celebrating the day by collecting money for charity, providing coffee and cakes, made to local recipes and having an exhibition which featured information and recipes for traditional Lancashire goodies.

The organisation *The Friends of Real Lancashire*, first observed Lancashire Day in 1996 with the loyal toast to "The Queen, Duke of Lancaster". It commemorates the day in 1295 when Lancashire sent its first representatives to the Parliament of Edward I. The latest Lancashire Day proclamation is as follows:

Greetings!

Know ye that this day, November 27th
in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Nine,
the 58th year of the reign of Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II, Duke of Lancaster,
is Lancashire Day.

Know ye also, and rejoice, that by virtue of Her Majesty's County Palatine of Lancaster, the citizens of the Hundreds of Lonsdale, North and South of the Sands, Amounderness, Leyland, Blackburn, Salford and West Derby are forever entitled to style themselves Lancastrians.

Throughout the County Palatine, from the Furness Fells to the River Mersey, from the Irish Sea to the Pennines, this day shall ever mark the peoples' pleasure in that excellent distinction – true Lancastrians, proud of the Red Rose and loyal to our Sovereign Duke.

GOD BLESS LANCASHIRE AND
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN,
DUKE OF LANCASTER.[1]

As well as information about the well known Lancashire delicacies such as Eccles cakes, Chorley cakes, Goosnargh cakes and Grasmere gingerbread, I was interested to see that the old parish of Warton, the Mourholme area, also featured its own specialities, buttermilk bread from Carnforth and Lancashire bun loaf from Warton, Lancaster was represented by a recipe for sly cakes.2

It is thought that many traditional dishes were associated with religious festivals. It was the custom to keep watch or wake in the local church on the eve of the anniversary of the dedication of the church, usually the church's saint's day.

People would come from a distance to attend the celebration and it became usual for food to be on sale for the travellers, with different areas having their own specialities. The Wakes came to be associated with fairs and activities viewed as sports in past ages, such as bull baiting, cock fighting and donkey racing.[3,4]

Following the Reformation religious observances such as wakes were not encouraged and indeed these festivities were banned, including the eating of rich cakes and pastries. However some areas in the north particularly in Lancashire and Cheshire managed to continue the traditions and the food that went with them.[5] The workers in the industrial areas tended to have a sparse and monotonous diet, consisting of tea, bread, porridge, potatoes, cheese and perhaps a little bacon, sometimes reduced to tea, bread and porridge in times of hardship. The sweet rich treats of local cakes, made with butter, spices and dried fruits available at holiday times or at fairs must have been particularly enjoyed as a change from the usual fare and affordable as occasional treats.[6]

Sugar cane originated in India, but was gradually introduced into Middle Eastern countries by the Arabs. The Romans did know about sugar, but

did not use it in cookery, regarding it as a medicine. Crusaders then encountered it again in the eleventh century and sugar became increasingly popular in Western Europe.[7]

As Europeans extended their colonial possessions, so they set up sugar plantations. By the sixteenth century London was refining sugar and as sugar imports increased so major seaports, such as Bristol, Chester, Liverpool, Lancaster and Whitehaven set up their own refineries. One of the by-products of sugar refining was the thick, dark viscous residue, molasses, now usually known as treacle; this was used, particularly in the North as a sweetener and an ingredient in gingerbread and parkin. It was also distilled to make rum.[8] Variations of cakes or enriched breads, featuring dried fruit, spices, treacle, rum or butter can be found throughout Lancashire and what is now Cumbria.[9] The ports of Cumbria traded with the West Indies, exporting wool and importing Barbados sugar, rum and spices.[10]

Our particular local recipes may not be as well know as some other Lancashire specialities, but it may be worth trying them out. Here are the recipes, originally they were only given in imperial measures, I have added metric measures and hope they are accurate.

Buttermilk Bread – a recipe from Carnforth

3½ lb (1kg 550g) plain flour
pinch of salt
12 oz (325g) lard
1½ oz (40g) sugar
1 lb (450g) raisins
1½ lb (700g) currants
4 oz (110g) chopped mixed peel
1 tablesp. bicarbonate of soda
buttermilk

Sieve together the flour and salt. Rub in the lard then add sugar and fruits. Dissolve the bicarb, in a little of the buttermilk then add to the flour mixture with enough buttermilk to give a slack dough. Put into large, greased bread tins and bake in a moderate oven 350°F, 180°C, gas Mark 4 until firm. This will take approximately 2½ - 3 hours.

Lancashire Bun Loaf – a recipe from Warton

2 lb (900g) bread dough
4 oz (110g) butter
8 oz (225g) raisins
8 oz (225g) currants
candied peel
2 oz (50g) orange peel grated or finely chopped
½ oz (15g) mixed spice

Place dough in bowl and work into it the melted butter then fruit and spice. Knead very thoroughly then place in a buttered tin and leave to prove in a warm place for 1¼ hours.

Bake in a hot oven 425°F, 220°C, gas Mark 7, until golden brown and hollow-sounding when tapped, approximately 1 hour.

Lancashire Sly cakes – a recipe from Lancaster

12 oz (325g) flour
1½ oz (40g) castor sugar
a pinch each of salt and mixed spice
6 oz (175g) butter
currants
rum

Mix together the flour, sugar, salt and spice then form into a stiff paste with cold water. Roll into an oblong, spread on two ounces (50g) of butter, fold down the top third, bring up lower third, seal the edges and half turn so that the sides are now top and bottom. Re-roll into an oblong and repeat twice, using two ounces (50g) of butter each time. Meanwhile the currants should have been steeped in rum to just cover.

Roll out the pastry thinly, cut into rounds and sprinkle on each one some of the currants, with a little brown sugar if liked. Moisten the edges, cover with more rounds and seal firmly. Prick lightly, put onto greased baking tins and bake in a hot oven 425°F, 220°C, gas Mark 7 until brown.

the newly built bridge, which was so important to the Abbey.

The bridge is still there to this day; beloved of artists, bikers, local people and tourists, it is a scheduled Ancient Monument and continues to be "a bridge of beauty, convenience and durability", the instruction given to the masons.

October 28th 2009 - Echoes of Art Deco – Morecambe

The Mourholme Society's October meeting talk was given by Mr Peter Wade, and was on the subject of Art Deco buildings in Morecambe. The main focus was on the Midland Hotel, agreed to be one of the three best examples of Art Deco building in the North West, the other two being Centenary House in Preston and the Casino in Blackpool. Mr Wade talked about the Hotel's origins, and showed us slides of its main features, in particular the works of Eric Gill. The Hotel was built in the 1930s to serve passengers disembarking at the Stone Jetty, and replaced a much smaller Victorian hotel. It is not the only example of Art Deco in Morecambe, however. Of large buildings, the (former) Cinema, the Winter Gardens, and the Woolworth's building were cited. There are also plenty of smaller examples, shops, and houses, including modest semis. The prevalence of the style reflects the prosperity of Morecambe in the 1920s and 1930s as a holiday resort.

November 25th 2009 - Native and Roman: The relationship between the native Britons and their Roman overlords in the North West

We heard an excellent lecture by Jamie Quartermaine of Oxford Archeology North about the relationship between the Romans and the native Britons in the North West. The surprising fact was, that there was not a great deal. The Romans built roads, forts, towns with bathhouses, the Wall, but remained the overlords with little contact, unlike in other parts of England.

Between about 1100 and 500 BC the climate had worsened, and there was competition for decreasing amounts of productive land. The result was the easily defensible hill forts, of which Ingleborough, and Warton Crag are examples. Most Iron Age settlements had been round, both the outer boundaries, and the houses themselves. However, assumptions that rectangular Iron Age remains must have been influenced by the Romans, have been proved unfounded by radio carbon dating, and, conversely, circular settlements continued to be built during the Roman occupation.

So what did the Romans do for us? They brought 400 years of peace, which is evidenced by native building in the traditional style, but with many entrances into the compounds, because there was no need for defence. When the Roman Empire crumbled there was no more money coming in, and locals and remaining legionaries reverted to marauding in small bands, and building settlements in the old defensible style.

December 10th 2009 – The Way the Wind Blows: a look at local weathervanes

Our December meeting consisted of an illustrated talk on weathervanes by Miss Anne Searle and Miss Jean Oakes,

1. The Friends of Real Lancashire, www.forl.co.uk
2. Joan Poulson, *More Old Lancashire Recipes*, (Nelson: Hendon Publishing Co. Ltd., 1976) 28, 35.
3. Helen Pollard, "Lancashire's Heritage," in *Traditional Food East and West of the Pennines*, ed C. Anne Wilson (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1991), 134-137.
4. Joan Poulson, *Old Lancashire Recipes*, (Nelson: Hendon Publishing Co. Ltd., 1973), 4.
5. Jane Parsons, "Wakes Holidays in Lancashire", *The Mourholme Magazine of Local History*, no.2 (2008-2009): 20, 21.
6. Pollard, *Traditional Food*, 120, 121.
7. C. Anne Wilson, *Food and Drink in Britain: From the Stone Age to Recent Times* (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1984), 249, 251-253.
8. Wilson, *Food and Drink in Britain*, 268-274
9. Poulson, *More Old Lancashire Recipes*, 5.
10. Poulson, *More Old Lancashire Recipes*, 29.

REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS

September 23rd 2009 - The Building of Devil's Bridge

Once upon a time a cow grazing by the River Lune crossed over the river to sample the grass on the other side. When her owner came to fetch her in for milking the cow would not cross back through the water in spite of the woman's best efforts. As she was wondering what to do, the Devil appeared and suggested a solution to her, he would build a bridge over the river, all he wanted in return was the soul of the first living creature to cross the bridge. When the woman returned in the morning, there was a fine stone bridge, its three curved arches spanning the river from the east bank to the west bank. But mindful of the Devil's bargain she was careful to make sure that a dog led the way over the bridge and thus both she and the cow kept their souls safe from Satan's power.

However David Smail had rather a different tale to tell the Mourholme Local History Society at their September meeting. He started researching the bridge some years ago when he could find no entry about the Devil's Bridge in a book about stone bridges. David has studied building methods, looking at other structures such as the Roman Bridge and Aqueduct the Pont du Gard in southern France, and St Mary's, the church in Kirkby Lonsdale, some of which is of Norman construction. He has even built a small bridge himself. He believes that the bridge was part of an important route used by the wealthy Abbey of St Mary in York, to transfer goods, particularly grain to Hull and thence to lucrative markets in Europe. There is a record of the Archbishop of York, John Romayne visiting Kirkby Lonsdale on 22nd March 1294; this was only a few days before New Years Day, which was then 25th March. David suggested that the visit of the Archbishop could have been to formally open

the newly built bridge, which was so important to the Abbey.

The bridge is still there to this day; beloved of artists, bikers, local people and tourists, it is a scheduled Ancient Monument and continues to be "a bridge of beauty, convenience and durability", the instruction given to the masons.

October 28th 2009 - Echoes of Art Deco – Morecambe

The Mourholme Society's October meeting talk was given by Mr Peter Wade, and was on the subject of Art Deco buildings in Morecambe. The main focus was on the Midland Hotel, agreed to be one of the three best examples of Art Deco building in the North West, the other two being Centenary House in Preston and the Casino in Blackpool. Mr Wade talked about the Hotel's origins, and showed us slides of its main features, in particular the works of Eric Gill. The Hotel was built in the 1930s to serve passengers disembarking at the Stone Jetty, and replaced a much smaller Victorian hotel. It is not the only example of Art Deco in Morecambe, however. Of large buildings, the (former) Cinema, the Winter Gardens, and the Woolworth's building were cited. There are also plenty of smaller examples, shops, and houses, including modest semis. The prevalence of the style reflects the prosperity of Morecambe in the 1920s and 1930s as a holiday resort.

November 25th 2009 - Native and Roman: The relationship between the native Britons and their Roman overlords in the North West

We heard an excellent lecture by Jamie Quartermaine of Oxford Archeology North about the relationship between the Romans and the native Britons in the North West. The surprising fact was, that there was not a great deal. The Romans built roads, forts, towns with bathhouses, the Wall, but remained the overlords with little contact, unlike in other parts of England.

Between about 1100 and 500 BC the climate had worsened, and there was competition for decreasing amounts of productive land. The result was the easily defensible hill forts, of which Ingleborough, and Warton Crag are examples. Most Iron Age settlements had been round, both the outer boundaries, and the houses themselves. However, assumptions that rectangular Iron Age remains must have been influenced by the Romans, have been proved unfounded by radio carbon dating, and, conversely, circular settlements continued to be built during the Roman occupation.

So what did the Romans do for us? They brought 400 years of peace, which is evidenced by native building in the traditional style, but with many entrances into the compounds, because there was no need for defence. When the Roman Empire crumbled there was no more money coming in, and locals and remaining legionaries reverted to marauding in small bands, and building settlements in the old defensible style.

December 10th 2009 – The Way the Wind Blows: a look at local weathervanes

Our December meeting consisted of an illustrated talk on weathervanes by Miss Anne Searle and Miss Jean Oakes,

followed by a buffet provided by Pam's Pantry. There is some evidence that weathervanes have existed since about 1400 BC. The earliest ones in Britain were usually in the form of a cock, symbolising vigilance, and, since most early ones were on churches, other Christian symbols, such as the fish and the eagle (representing St John). More recently, they have represented the function of a place (eg ships at a port), occupations (digger, malt shovel, means of transport), sports, animals, birds and fish, heraldry, mythology, witches. Most are now on private buildings and represent the owners' particular interests. It was a suitably light-hearted talk for the festive season, and we will all be much more observant in future of what is above our eye level.

January 27th 2010 – Turnpike Roads in Lancashire

The Mourholme Society meeting in January was given by Brenda Fox and was about the turnpikes of N. Lancashire.

An 18th Century traveller advised people to "avoid the north country as they would the Devil", because of the state of the roads. The current A6 pretty much follows the route of the turnpike road from Preston to Lancaster and beyond. The route was "turnpiked " (meaning that an Act of Parliament had to be passed to designate it as a turnpike road) twice, in 1759 and 1825, which certainly improved matters. Mrs Fox showed us pictures of tollhouses and mile markers on this and other roads in the area. She mentioned famous road builders, in particular Jack Metcalfe, Thomas Telford and John McAdam and sons. Related industries were hotels, stables, horse dealing, wheelwrights and blacksmiths. The canals were not a great threat to the turnpikes, but the railways were. Traffic, and therefore income, declined, and in 1880 the County Council took over road maintenance. It was the advent of the motorcar, which revived the use of roads.

February 24th 2010 – Watermills of South Cumbria

The Mourholme Local History Society held its February meeting at Yealand Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd, at which the speaker was Roger Bingham, on the Water Mills of South Cumbria. The talk was packed with information. Not nearly so many mills were entered in Domesday Book for this area as further south, partly because a lot of present Cumbria was part of Scotland, but place names show that there were many (for example, Milnthorpe). Water mills were used by the Romans, but not in Northern Europe until the Dark Ages, and there are many references from the Middle Ages; Heron Corn Mill dates from the 1200s. Their first use was for milling flour for bread, then for "fulling" (pounding cloth). They were not used for weaving till the eighteenth century. There were many other products of mills, including bobbins, lead, paper and copper. Water power was used until the middle of the nineteenth century, when a steam engine was introduced in Kendal in 1843 as a supplement to a water mill. The work in mills was very hard, often carried out by women and children, in unpleasant and dangerous conditions. Roger Bingham's final point was that water power still can play its part, as in the turbine on the waterfall at Heron Corn Mill, which will provide enough power for 200 houses.

Jane Parsons and Jenny Ager

NOTES AND QUERIES

The editor has had a query from Kate Robinson and wonders if any members could help her. Kate lives in Beck House Farm in Borwick, she is researching the farm and the people who lived there. She is particularly interested in the Moss family who were tenant farmers. Kate has been told about articles from our magazine about Borwick, although they did not look as though they would be of much help.

If you have any information you could contact Kate Robinson at Beck House Farm, Borwick, LA6 1JS, telephone number 01524 720254.

The editor would be pleased to have comments on the articles in the magazine, with additional material or criticism. She would also like to have ideas for articles or for research that Mourholme members could undertake.

MOURHOLME SUMMER OUTING 2010
Pendle Heritage

We are planning an outing on 27th July 2010. Ian Burton takes parties on a tour around the Pendleside area connected with the notorious outbreak of witchcraft in 1612. We also hope to stop at the Pendle Heritage Centre, which has attractions such as a museum and a charming herb garden. We are planning to stop in Clitheroe for lunch, with an opportunity to visit the market. The day will end with a drive through the beautiful valleys of the rivers Hodder and Ribble and the Forest of Pendle.

Contact Jenny Ager for details: Tel: 01524 701491,
Email: jenny_ager@btopenworld.com