



The Gazette

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Pendle & Burnley
Branch

Issue 24 - October 2006

Acting Editor Brenda I Hustler

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Our special features in this edition relate to BARNOLDSWICK, the part of Yorkshire that is covered by LFHHS. Although administered by Lancashire for Local Government purposes, Barnoldswick is still in the County of York. Census returns come under the Skipton Division and the Parish Churches are in the Diocese of Bradford. Confusion can arise when searching for parish records since those for Barnoldswick – Holy Trinity incorporating St Mary le Gill and St James are held at Lancashire Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston, as are those for Bracewell St Michael and Kelbrook St Mary. Earby, however, was in the Parish of St Mary's, Thornton in Craven, and the registers are held at North Yorkshire Record Office at Northallerton, together with those for St Peter's, Marton-in-Craven. For Non-Conformist records, you are recommended to read FINDING BAPTISTS in BARNOLDSWICK by Pip Cowling. This was published in the November issue of 2004 and can be found in the newsletter archives on the branch website.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING AND THE GEESE ARE GETTING FAT

so the rhyme goes.

Tickets for the Christmas Festivities will be on sale at the October and November Meetings. Price £3.50 – There will be entertainment and special refreshments.

The Branch Committee wish you all

A Very Happy Christmas

and a Peaceful New Year.

May all your brick walls tumble or at least may you knock a few holes in them.



Membership Subscriptions are due on January 1st.

There will be a renewal form in the NOVEMBER issue of "Lancashire". Now you know you always forget to renew until the last minute, in fact many of you have to have a "Gentle Reminder". Why not send off your renewal as soon as you get the journal, then you can enjoy Christmas with one thing less to remember to do. Christmas is a busy time of year for all of us, including our Pip, the society's membership secretary and it is a great help to her if you send them in early.

The next edition of the Gazette will contain a sequel to the "Diaries of Jabez Stuttard" by Peter Walsh and you don't want to miss that do you? So get your membership renewed and then you will be able to have your free copy of "The GAZETTE"

LIBRARY

New acquisitions received for the library.

Books

- LPRS No 163 Prescott 1766-1795
- The Old Parish Churches of Lancashire
- The Textile Mills of Pendle and Their Steam Engines
- Guide to Lancashire Records : The Poor Law 1750-1850

CD-ROMs

"My Grandparents: HADFIELD, LEIGH, PARKER and WHITAKER" (together with extensive notes for use).
Donated by Tim HADFIELD of Newark on Trent CDs

SILK MEMORIAL RIBBONS

TAYLOR (3); CORK (3); BROWN (1) Donated by Doreen Whit(t)aker

Margaret Heap, Branch Librarian.

LANCASHIREBMD PROJECT

The inputting of the Birth indexes is nearing completion with just 20 registers still to be checked. Births for the sub-district Burnley; Burnley East and Burnley West are now on the website. Those for Barnoldswick and Padiham are due to follow shortly. Amendments for Pendle, Nelson and Colne are being checked and will be submitted to the webmaster in the near future. Work on the Non-Conformist Church marriages is now complete.

Tony Foster wishes to thank everyone for their hard work and reports that the webmaster "was very impressed with the way in which the Burnley material was being covered."

Christine Windle, Lancashire BMD Project Coordinator

PROJECTS

Burnley Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions – Work on MIs in Part 2 of the old ground continues.

Nelson Walton Lane Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions. – This project, originally started by Peter Walsh and the late David McBride, is being continued. Approximately half of the burial plots have now been transcribed. To date, the inscriptions for four of the plots have been checked, but there are still several awaiting checking. If you would like to take part in this project, please contact either me or David & Brenda Hustler.

Memorial Inscriptions for most of the churches in our area were recorded in the early 1980s. These were typed up in the days before PCs. Transferring the existing printed Memorial Inscriptions in the big green books into databases is ongoing. They will be available on the branch computer in addition to being in printed form in smaller booklets for members to borrow. To date, St Mary's Newchurch-in-Pendle, Winewall Inghamite Chapel, Higham Wesleyan Chapel, Trawden Cemetery, Trawden Wesley Chapel and St Mary the Virgin, Trawden have been completed. Trawden inscriptions are all in one booklet.

Work continues on transcriptions of the registers for St Thomas's Church, Barrowford, St Mary's, Newchurch-in-Pendle and the Burial Registers for St John the Divine, Great Marsden.

Thanks go to all those working on these projects.

If you would like to help out with any of these projects, please contact Bob Ellis, Jean Ingham or Brenda Hustler.

Bob Ellis. Project Coordinator

PROGRAMME FOR 2007

The programme of events for the coming meetings is shown below and can also be viewed on the branch website at

<http://www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk>

- 15.Nov Reluctant Soldiers (Conscription) Fred Holcroft
29.Nov Practical Evening
13.Dec Christmas Festivities (by ticket only)

2007

- 17.Jan My Life in Textiles Arthur English
31.Jan Practical Evening
21.Feb Postal History part 1, up to 1840 Sarah Greenwood
21 Mar A.G.M. and Practical Evening
18 Apr Postal History part 2, after 1840 Sarah Greenwood
16 May Out visit To be arranged
30 May Practical Evening
20 Jun Swiss Tour, Then and Now Peter Marshall
18 Jul Practical Evening
15 Aug Through Glass Brightly Margaret Curry
29 Aug OPEN EVENING
19 Sep Archivist from Lancashire Record Office
17 Oct Local Collections at Towneley Mike Townsend
31 Oct Practical Evening
21 Nov Buildings of Old Colne Darran Ward
12 Dec Christmas Festivities (By ticket only)

Jean Ingham, Acting Programme Secretary.

DIARY DATES – (WHAT'S ON)

DONCASTER & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Danum School, Doncaster. Saturday 28th October,

LIVERPOOL AINTREE RACECOURSE FAIR

Princess Royal Stand Exhibition Suite, Ormskirk Road
Aintree L9 5AS

Sunday 29th October 2006. 10 am to 5 pm

Admission £2 (accompanied children under 16 free)

YORKSHIRE COAST FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Spa Complex, Scarborough,

Saturday November 11th 2006 10 am to 4 pm

Admission £2 (accompanied children under 16 free)

INSTITUTE OF LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY & HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

The History of the Family in the North West 1700-1970.

University of Central Lancashire,

Saturday 18 November 2006 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Details are available at www.localandfamilyhistory.com

HULL FAMILY HISTORY FAIR,

Hull College, Queen's Gardens, Hull

Saturday November 25th 2006 10am to 4pm

Admission Free

LANCASHIRE FH & HS (Our Society)– IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

§ ADVICE & RESEARCH AFTERNOON

Workshop - Advice & Research Session

Saturday 2nd December 2006 1.00 to 4.30pm

at The Straits

Enquiries to Miss Margaret Purcell, 128 Red Bank Rd,
Bispham, Blackpool, Lancashire FY2 9DZ.

E-mail: mpurcell@redbankmp.fsnet.co.uk

BARNOLDSWICK - Whatever Happened to the Methodist Chapels?

Written by Dennis Cairns

An announcement by Pendle Borough Council that the Town Hall on Jepp Hill was to become surplus to requirements provided an opportune moment to reflect on the Methodist chapels of the Victorian era that once existed in Barnoldswick. There are those, more competent than I, who can deal with the places of worship of other denominations! As with most Non-Conformist groups, the first meeting place was usually in a house or a rented room. It is believed that the early Wesleyans of Barlick first met in a cottage in Hudson's Yard off the Butts, before building their first chapel (the present Town Hall) on Jepp Hill in 1820 or thereabouts. This was to accommodate 350 people, serving as a Sunday School and also as a day school in 1859 after two more rooms had been added. The joining of this extension can clearly be seen at the King Street end of the building.

Eventually, numbers of children grew too large for these premises and the Wesleyan Day School was opened in 1862. (This became Rainhall Road Primary School and was closed in 2001.) As with most religious groups, disputes arose and schisms occurred. Such was the case in 1839 when almost half the Wesleyan Society broke away to form what is now the Independent Methodist Church, the "New Ship", although press and other reports of the day refer to it under another name. Their first chapel, opened in 1840 and costing £400 was situated on Westgate, close to Townhead, but 30 years later this too was in need of extension. A diarist of 1872 made this entry: "**31st March (Easter Sunday). Rain. Opening Service of the Benevolent Methodist Chapel**", whilst the local Skipton paper commented as follows, "**The Benevolent Methodists have finished the alterations to their old chapel. They had long been wishful for a more commodious place in which to worship and had decided to pull down and rebuild. This they have done with some taste. Opening services were held on the 24th and 31st when handsome collections on both Sundays came to £78.**"

A nationwide split had occurred within the then Wesleyan Church in 1810, leading to the rise of the Primitive Methodists. A group of evangelists from this sect came to Barnoldswick in 1854 and the following year they rented a room for meetings and worship above the "Engine" Inn, (now the Railway Hotel). A little later, meetings were held in shop premises on Newtown but after acquiring a plot of land on Market Street, a chapel to seat 250 people was opened in May, 1859. The much-altered remains of this chapel can be seen directly behind the Midland Bank and up to a few years ago it was being used as a carpet warehouse. These premises served the Primitives for the next 20 years when a larger chapel was built on Station Road, being opened in September 1880. Alas, nothing can be seen of this building today; only the space it occupied, now the car park next to the Civic Hall!

Meanwhile, our diarist of the 1870's tells us that on the 16th January, 1871, "**a meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel to take into consideration the erection of a new chapel**". Another six years were to pass before these new premises on Rainhall Road and directly opposite the school, became a reality, the Opening Service being held on Good Friday, 7th April 1877. For the size of Barnoldswick at this time (population around 3,500), this structure must have

dominated the centre of the village. With seating for 800, it was by far the largest and most grandiose of the Nonconformist chapels to be built. However, like the Primitive Methodist Chapel, this too was demolished in the late 1960's.

So, we return to the Independent Methodists who, as with the other two branches of Methodism in the village, outgrew their original building near Town Head and, in 1892 went to worship in the building we see on Walmsgate and which is now the only remaining example in the town of the style of architecture so favoured by Victorian Nonconformists. For this reason it has been declared a listed building, thereby tying the hands of the Trustees in deciding what can be done with the premises. I believe that the community would be that much poorer for the loss of this building, whether or not it still continued as a place of worship but with the impositions placed upon it under "listed building" status, the small band of active worshippers find themselves in a most difficult situation. Taking into account the two demolished Baptist Chapels, four of the five Victorian structures have gone forever. A large degree of benevolence will have to be shown from some source if the "New Ship" is to stay afloat!

This article was published in the Craven Herald and Pioneer about 6 years ago. It has been modified and updated for this publication. Dennis is chairman of Barnoldswick History Society and Archivist for St Andrew's Church, Barnoldswick. I am indebted to him for permitting me to use his articles and for allowing me to use his archives for future articles on Barnoldswick. Editor

CHRONOLOGY OF METHODIST PLACES OF WORSHIP IN THE BARNOLDSWICK CIRCUIT.

United Methodist

(Burnley Brunswick Circuit formerly Crosshills Circuit)
1814 Wesleyan Preaching Place, Kelbrook
1826 Kelbrook U.M.Church, Waterloo Rd.
1890 Kelbrook Methodist Church (Closed 1983)
1898 United Methodists, Earby (Good Templars Hall)
1903-1969 Earby George Street U.M.Church
1970 St Peter's Earby

Wesleyan Methodist

(Colne Circuit, Bolton District)
Pre-1805 Earby Cottage Worship
c. 1800 Barnoldswick Cottage Worship
1820 Wesleyan Chapel, Jepp Hill
1821 Old Chapel, Stonybank Road
1861-1957 Earby, Riley St. (SS premises converted 1963)
1877-1964 Rainhall Rd. Wesleyan Church
1822 Mount Pleasant

Primitive Methodist

(Branch of Nelson Circuit, Bradford & Halifax District)
1907-1933 Earby Primitive Methodist Mission
1855 Barnoldwick Cott. Worship
1839 Independent Methodist (New Ship)
1859 Primitive Methodist Chapel, Market Street
1880-1964 Bethel Primitive Methodist Station Rd
1900-1961 Salterforth Methodist (Friends Meeting House)
1903 Town Head Wesleyan Mission
1909-1964 Calf Hall Rd. Methodist
1931 Gospel Mission
1964 St Andrew's Barnoldswick (New Church 1971)
The Earby Chapels have amalgamated and formed St Peter's Earby. Barnoldswick Chapels have formed St Andrew's. Mount Pleasant at County Brook is served from Earby.

Compiled by Ruth & John Brenmand 1990, Revised by Dennis Cairns 1997.

BARNOLDSWICK'S PART IN A ROYAL WEDDING

Submitted by Ada Hanam

By this time next year, it is quite probable that the country will be preparing to celebrate the "Diamond Wedding" of Her Majesty the Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. On November 20th 1947, Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth married Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten and two Barnoldswick people attended the Royal Wedding in Westminster Abbey. They were my aunt, Mrs Margaret Wright and Mr Harold Gill who, at the time, were employees of Blin Blin Ltd, a weaving company in Barnoldswick.

It was only when reading the local newspaper that Mrs Margaret Wright discovered she was weaving the cloth for the going away outfit that would be worn by Princess Elizabeth after her wedding to Lt Philip Mountbatten. Mrs Isabel Brown and Miss Linda Charnley, two of her work colleagues at Blin Blin Ltd., the mill making the wedding cloth were clearly amazed when they learnt what they were weaving. Mrs Isabel Brown was quoted as saying, "Naturally I was pleasantly surprised by the news that we are weaving cloth for the Princess's travelling outfit". Miss Linda Charnley said, "It was a surprise alright, we knew nothing about it". My aunt, Mrs Margaret Wright said "I knew nothing of it until I saw it in the paper".

Blin Blin Ltd., were invited to send two representatives from the mill and Mr Harold Gill and Mrs Margaret Wright were the two lucky recipients.

Mrs Wright and Mr Gill travelled by train from Skipton station and were met in London by a representative of Blin Blin Ltd. That evening they spent an hour among the crowds outside Buckingham Palace, and the following morning they had a look round Oxford Street, before they began their drive to Westminster Abbey.

Mrs Wright's account of the royal wedding at the time was as follows.

"This has been one of the most exciting days of my life. I would not have missed it for the world. The memory of it all will stay with me forever.



Copy of Mrs Wright's wedding invitation

A perfect view of the wedding; Seeing the Royal Family for the first time; Driving through the London streets lined with cheering crowds; Nights scenes at Buckingham Palace; how could anyone forget such an occasion?

Even at nine o'clock in the morning, there were dense crowds lining the route. It was a thrilling drive as I clasped my invitation ticket from the Lord Chancellor. Imagine our disappointment when we found that our places were in one of the back transept rows. It meant we could not see the High Altar, so would not even get a glimpse of the wedding ceremony. Still we were lucky to be there at all, we thought. We had a perfect view of the West Door and we recognized many famous individuals as they entered. Then came a stroke of good fortune, both Mr Gill and myself were moved by an official to vacant seats fairly near the front. So we had a perfect view after all.

Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip looked so happy. The ladies dresses were dazzling and how their jewellery glittered. For me the most exciting part of the service was when the bride and bridegroom led the procession down the aisle to the accompaniment of Mendelssohn's Wedding March. Of the music during the service, I particularly liked the hymn "Praise my Soul the King of Heaven". Ever since I was chosen to attend the service I had been the envy of all my workmates and neighbours and of course my family, including my 8-year-old daughter, Barbara. Now it is all over, I can fully understand this envy. It has been a wonderful trip. From the moment I arrived in London, everything has gone without a hitch. One of the biggest surprises of all is that I have had no queuing at all. When I return to Yorkshire this evening, I shall take with me one souvenir, a programme of the service issued in the Abbey, which I shall treasure always."

Another person with connections to Barnoldswick was also at the wedding. James Michael Hey, the 12-year-old son of Mr & Mrs T. A. Hey, saw the wedding from a seat in the choir stalls, as a member of the Chapel Royal choir at St James' Palace. His mother, formerly Miss Betty Peckover, is a member of a well-known Barnoldswick family.



Mrs Margaret Wright (centre) and Mr Gill

THE STORY BEHIND THE STONES

Submitted by Christine Haworth

KILLED AT TOWER CLOUGH

Burnley Cemetery Old Ground - Grave 4637, 4640,4641:
MI 856, reads –

“In Loving Memory of Richard FAWCETT, Manager of Hapton Valley Colliery, who died from a tragic accident at Tower Clough, Hapton, on 26th Feb 1889, aged 50 years.”

Richard Fawcett had been manager of Burnt Hills and Hapton Valley Collieries for about fifteen years. He lived with his wife and seven children at the old Spa Clough House near the colliery, but they were all packed up and ready to move the following week to ‘Bank Royd’, a house owned by the colliery on Bank Parade. The Hargreaves Colliery offices were also on Bank Parade and he had just been given a new job working there.

The accident and inquest are reported in the local papers for 28th Feb 1889 & 2nd Mar 1889.

On the fateful day Richard and Thomas Wood, a fireman at Burnt Hills pit, went down an old air shaft at Tower Clough into the Upper Mountain Mine, which was about 62 yards in depth. They had gone to explore the possibility of extending the mine. After about three hours they were being pulled up to the surface in a tub, but just before they reached the top the rope suddenly snapped and they fell to the bottom of the shaft where they died instantly.

An inquest was held by the coroner Mr H J Robinson at the Griffin Hotel to decide if the deaths of Richard Fawcett & Thomas Wood were an accident or if anyone was to blame. It was said that the rope had only been used about three times before and should have been adequate for the job. It was 1 1/8 inches thick but the rope that pulled their bodies to the surface was only 7/8 of an inch thick.

After hearing all the evidence the coroner said that “Mr Fawcett was the man responsible at the time, and he had examined the rope the day before it was used, and it was an error of judgement on his part. There seemed to be a latent defect in the rope which gave way; none of those who examined it saw a flaw in it.”

Mr G Houlden, foreman of the jury, said that the rope looked to him as though it had may have been cut. Mr Handsley, who represented the colliery owners, said it had not. He also said - “ they had no more careful man connected with the collieries than Mr Fawcett and he would not have risked his life if he had not thought the rope quite safe. There was no doubt a latent defect in the rope.” The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death” for both men. The two men who lost their lives were old comrades. Twenty years earlier both men had helped to sink the shaft where they met their deaths.

DROWNED AT FOULRIDGE

Burnley Cemetery Old Ground - Grave 11830, MI 755 reads
“[Also] John Thomas [SMALLPAGE] their son, born May 13th 1847, died December 9th 1871, skating at Foulridge, the ice broke and he was drowned.”

There is a long report of accident, inquest & funeral in the Burnley Gazette December 16th 1871.

John Thomas SMALLPAGE had gone with others, including R and R J SMITH, from Burnley to Foulridge reservoir. They had been told that an area of about 200 yards of ice was safe but R J SMITH went beyond that point and John Thomas SMALLPAGE followed. The ice suddenly broke and they went down. Both of them could

swim but they were stopped by the ice. Bystanders made a rope from scarves but it broke. A young man called RUSHTON went onto the ice while being held by Col. CLAYTON and SMITH managed to grab hold of RUSHTON’s foot and was saved but SMALLPAGE could not be reached and was drowned.

A boat was used to look for the body, with the aid of torches, until three in the morning. The search was resumed again the next day when it was found and taken to Olive Mount, his home in Burnley.

FIVE PERSONS DROWNED NEAR TIM BOBBIN INN

Burnley Cemetery – Graves A272, A273, A274,

the memorial inscription reads –

“In Loving Memory of Joseph BARRITT aged 44 years. Also Arthur his son aged 19 years. Also John BARRITT, brother of the above Joseph BARRITT, aged 43 years. Also Ezra TATTERSALL, nephew of the above Joseph & John BARRITT, aged 19 years. Also Joseph, brother of the above Ezra aged 17 years, who lost their lives by the breaking of the ice in Tim Bobbin Quarry whilst attempting to rescue two boys from drowning, December 26th 1887.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”

There is a long report in Burnley Express Newspaper 28th Dec 1887 and in the issue of 7th Jan 1888 is an inserted piece - In Memory of Five Burnley Heroes with a photograph of each of them.

The tragedy took place at a disused quarry behind the Tim Bobbin Inn, near Ightenhill Park Lane. It was 20 yards deep & 50 yards long but with very steep sides. Over the last ten years water had settled at the bottom and this had become frozen after a hard frost. Several people had gone there to slide or skate on the ice including two boys – Frank Hartley of 11 Monmouth Street, aged 12 and Thomas Hewitson of Zion Terrace, aged 14. The ice suddenly gave way and the two boys went into the water. A young boy called George Astin, of Roebuck Street, tried to help Frank Hartley but could not hold on to him. A boy called Davenport of Greenhalgh Street raised the alarm.

A family Christmas party was being held at a house nearby in Park Lane and several members of the family went to help. Joseph Barritt went onto the ice first to try and rescue the boys when his nephew Ezra Tattersall said he should take his place as the ice might bear a lighter weight, but the two went under the ice together. John Barritt, Arthur Barritt and Joseph Tattersall then went onto the ice to help the two men but it would not bear their weight and they also sank beneath the surface. In the meantime the two boys, Frank Hartley & Thomas Hewitson, had been rescued by Mr Proctor & Mr Halstead, both of Park Lane and a Mr A Lonsdale with the use of a ladder, a clothes-line and clothes-prop.

It was several hours later that evening before the bodies of the five men were all recovered from the water.

REMINDER

Subscription renewals are due at the year-end.

There will be a renewal form in the November edition of “Lancashire”, the society’s journal. Why not send off your renewal as soon as you get the journal. Many people forget to renew and have to be reminded in the New Year.

BOOK REVIEW

MEMORIES OF COLNE by MRS CYRER

(with a new introduction by Christine Bradley)

Published by Landy Publishing – Bob Dobson. Price £10

On sale at Colne Library or from the publisher

The original “Memories of Mrs Cryer” were published as a series of articles in the Colne Times, which were later published as a book in 1901. This is a reprint of the original book, long since out of print, but there are numerous additional photographs of old Colne. For anyone who has ancestors from Colne, it is a fascinating read. The book contains factual memories and in its way it is a social history and geographical census of Colne in the 1850s and 1860s, as seen through the eyes of Mrs Cryer, formerly Miss Margaret Jane Ward.

Mrs Cryer, born in 1841, describes and names the people and places who were part of her life during her childhood at Walk Mill House, her school days at Mrs Blackburn’s boarding and day school for young ladies, and her life as a young woman. She takes us on a virtual walk through the Colne of her younger days, starting at the toll bar at Guy Syke, near to the Crown Hotel to the toll bar at Dyson New Road, now Skipton Road. She continues her virtual journey into Waterside, then Windybank and Langroyd and talks about the shops and shopkeepers she would encounter on the journey and tells short stories of several of them and who they were related to. Her memory for names seems incredible and one could almost say that she must have known everyone of note in the town. She also describes the fashions of the times and newsworthy events which happened during her lifetime, such as “the plug-drawing” riots. The church obviously played a large part in their lives and Mrs Cryer gives poetical descriptions of the people and events connected with the church.

This book is a remarkable account of life in Colne almost one hundred and fifty years ago.

In addition to Landy Publishing, Bob Dobson also sells second hand books and documents. His latest catalogue is in our branch library. Among the items he has for sale are Bennett’s History of Marsden and Nelson, Bennett’s History of Burnley, Colne Times newspaper bound into full years. (1942, 1952 and 1959). There are also some legal documents relating to Colne, which contain many names of people in the district.

FFHS NEWS.

DO YOU REMEMBER CORONATION DAY?

If you do, then you might be able to help BBC Timewatch make a new programme called 'The People's Coronation'.

The programme will commemorate Coronation Day in a completely different way, focusing on the millions of those who celebrated across the nation, as well as those who took part in the ceremony itself. Perhaps you went to a street party, bought a new television, or travelled to London to see the new Queen with your own eyes. Whatever your story, if you or your family have memories, photographs or film from the day then BBC Timewatch would like to hear from you. To find out more, visit www.bbc.co.uk/timewatch

You can get in touch with them by Post: The People's Coronation, BBC Timewatch, Room 3170, BBC White City, London W12 7TS; Email: coronation@bbc.co.uk or phone: 020 8752 5350

LFFHS NEWS

Message from the Chairman

From Your Chairman

Again greetings to this second Chairman’s summary. Since the last summary I have been able to visit two branches Preston, and Blackburn & Darwen, as well as the two I normally attend Bury and Chorley. I plan to visit at least four more before Christmas.

At our last Executive meeting on the 14th August, the following decisions were made.

1. We received a grant from Lancashire County Council to help cover the costs of expenses of travelling to Preston to check the BMD’s. Any branch wishing to claim any expenses should contact me for the forms, which they can then print for their own needs.
2. A small working party of Fred Moor, Pip Cowling, David Hustler & Carole Walker are looking at our application forms and the Paypal system.
3. The Straits working party was changed to a Subcommittee of the Executive with the responsibility to spend the setting up capital and for the day to day running of the Straits when it is opened.
4. Follow on from this the Executive met the following Monday and agreed to setting up the Straits according to the Working Parties proposal. This is available from me upon request.
5. A meeting has been arranged on Saturday 30th September at Astley hall from 1pm to 4 pm to discuss the Question “Where are we going?”
6. The Publication Committee is to produce guidelines that are required for projects if they are to be published by the Society in any format.
7. It was agreed that by the Publications Committee and approved by the executive that any branch wishing to have their own webpages that all enquires and any guidelines must be done first through Fred Moor and approved by the Executive.

1911 CENSUS

There is a campaign taking place in the UK for the early release of the 1911 UK Census using the Freedom of Information Act as a starting point. A report has been received from the chairman of LFH&HS relating to the campaign. A copy of the full report is available to any member of the branch from the branch secretary. The report includes details of how you can protest about the refusal of the National Archives to comply with the Freedom of Information Act.

Extracts from the report are published here.

- Over 200 Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and other MPs have signed a series of House of Commons 1911 Census petitions, the most recent of which calls for the release of sections of the online Census, beginning in 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- For the past 6 years, Natalie Ceeney, head of the National Archives and her predecessor, Sarah Tyacke, have been aware that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 imposes a duty on them to plan to release the 1911 Census in 2005. But neither Ceeney, nor her predecessor, has appointed a contractor to work on the digitisation of the 1911 Census Online, and at present Ceeney plans to delay the appointment until January 2007. That would appear to be an unreasonable decision.

- The National Archives has refused to release any extracts from the 1911 Census since 1st January 2005, when the Freedom of Information Act abolished the 100-year census closure rule. Even households where all the 1911 Census informants are known to be dead have not escaped the National Archives' ban on disclosure. But the Data Protection Act does not protect information relating to deceased persons.

- As a result, the Information Commissioner's Office has received complaints from family historians who claim that the National Archives has unlawfully refused to disclose extracts from the 1911 Census, under the Freedom of Information Act.

- Tony Blair's ministers and officials have not publicised the fact that no promises of 100-year census closure were given on any of the 1841 to 1971 censuses for England and Wales.

- Family historians who want to protest about Ceeney's plan to suspend access to extracts from the 1911 Census for the next 5 years should email the National Archives today.

QUERY CORNER

PEARSON, PICKOVER Rita Stott (5291)

e-mail drstott@ntlworld.com

Rita writes - My grandfather Henry PEARSON (Harry) was a stationer in Shrewsbury, aged 23 and unmarried. (1891 census). He was, a captain of Shrewsbury football club and a keen rower. (local newspapers). He lived with his family in a large house with a domestic servant.

My grandmother was a weaver in Burnley, married to a weaver John PICKOVER, and lived on Duke St. They had three children.

In the 1901 census Harry and my grandmother are living together in Manchester with her three children. All have the surname PEARSON which they kept for the rest of their lives. In 1902 my mother was born there and sadly Harry died there. His occupation on his death certificate is given as labourer (Electric Works). My grandmother died in Burnley in 1917. On her death certificate she is described as the widow of Henry PEARSON, occupation tramway wireman. I can find no trace of their having been married or of how they could have met. I would be so grateful if anyone could suggest the missing link as I have been searching for many years.

ANN (NANCY) McCORMICK

Kath Foster, Melbourne Australia

e-mail sillver@optushome.com.au

Ann or Nancy McCORMICK was born in 1872 in Hyde Cheshire. She is listed with her family in the 1881 census. In the 1891 census, the family are living in Rawtenstall, but Nancy is not with them and as yet has not been found on the 1891 census. Her mother was Jane Ellen McCORMICK whose husband Michael McCORMICK was killed in WW1 & she later married Herbert MEEK from Rawtenstall. It is thought that Nancy or Ann (married name unknown) lived on a farm on the moors between Crawshawbooth and Water - The name of the Farm was Crown Farm. There was a well in the wall on the cart track to the farm and it is believed to be still there. Does anyone remember Nancy/Ann? or know if the farm is still there. She had a brother William McCORMICK. Kath would be grateful for any help in finding who Nancy married and if she had children.

PILKINGTON, FISHER, WADDINGTON

Brian Radwell e-mail - Ginaradwell@aol.com

Brian's grandfather was Thomas Randolph PILKINGTON. He married Elizabeth Ann WADDINGTON in 1920 and had 2 daughters, Gladys and Joyce. Elizabeth Ann had a sister Edie WADDINGTON who married a THRELFALL in about 1929 and they had 1 daughter Brenda. Brian's grandfather had two brothers, Albert and Henry PILKINGTON and three sisters Alice, Rebecca and Amy who married a SIMMONS. The sisters all moved to Sheerness, Kent about 1940 but Albert & Henry PILKINGTON stayed in this area. Brian thinks that he will still have relations in the Padiham and Nelson area and would like them to get in touch if they will. He would be grateful for any help by members in tracing any relatives still alive. Other names which are associated with his grandfather's family are Hanley, Annie and Currie PILKINGTON.

DOLLIMORE Tom Dollimore, Montreal, Canada

e-mail thomas.dollimore093@sympatico.ca

Tom is looking for information on any descendants of Amos DOLLIMORE originally of Codicote Herts. Amos had 8 children. One went to Canada in 1869 the rest of the family moved first to Barnoldswick and then Burnley and Nelson.

Amos died in 1899 in Barnoldswick. The most recent information that Tom has found is that one of his grandsons, Amos, married Harriet Waddington on May 27th 1911 in Nelson. Other families related in to the Dollimores in this area are Baldwin, Bracewell, Jackson.

WALTON Garry Walton

e-mail garrywalton50@btinternet.com

Garry has inherited his late father's research into the WALTON family who originated in Colne and would like to continue with the work. His research goes as far as John William WALTON b.1826 in Colne and living in Todmorden 1861 Census. John William WALTON married Hannah SUTHERS. on June 2nd 1853 at the Church at Cross Stone, Todmorden and his occupation is listed as Gentleman and his abode is Manchester. His father was Ambrose WALTON a Cotton Spinner. The witnesses at the wedding were S.J. WALTON and Ann WALTON who could be John William's sisters. It is thought that Ambrose WALTON was born in 1802 in Colne and he may have had a cotton mill at Habergham Eaves - Roberts & Walton.

[There are several Ambrose WALTONs in Colne in the early 1800s and the baptism of John William WALTON has not yet been found. So, although his father is named as Ambrose WALTON it is difficult to know which is the correct one.]

MARY PHILOMENA KIRKBRIDE nee NILAND,

Research for television programme

Alexandra Lowe ½ Researcher ¼ You Don't Know You're Born e-mail alex.lowe@walltowall.co.uk

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The following message has been received from Alex Lowe.

Can any members help with this

Wall to Wall (well-known for such programmes as 1940s House and Who Do You Think You Are) will explore the ancestry of Coronation Street actress Anne KIRKBRIDE, focusing specifically on the working lives of a few of her

ancestors. According to research so far, Anne's grandmother, Mary or Molly Philomena KIRKBRIDE nee NILAND, was born in Ireland in 1901 and moved to the Manchester area from the age of 16, where she is said to have worked during the "war" (this could refer to WWI or WWII) as a nurse in a military first aid unit. She married in 1922, and is later remembered working as a nurse visiting elderly relatives of local wealthy families (the names SHAW and TAYLOR have been recalled as possible names of these families) which would have been from the 1920s possibly until the early 1960s. I have yet to find any documentation of her nursing career. I would like to ask for your help in tracing Mary, specifically by helping me find out about: military first aid posts during the first and second world wars in the Oldham area (where she married in 1922) and their nursing staff; where Mary might have started her nursing career; any nursing college in the area that Mary might have attended; wealthy local families at this time by the name of SHAW and TAYLOR, for whom Mary might have worked; local directories that might list Mary's services as a nurse.

If you have any information on this or any advice at all to offer in tracing Mary - your help will be much appreciated!

LIBRARY HOLDINGS

Copies of the list of the branch library holdings can be purchased at small charge from Margaret Heap, our branch librarian.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU NOW GOT AN E-MAIL ADDRESS?

If you have, send me an e-mail with a subject line of "e-mail address confirmation" and just put your name in the body of the message. Send it to

secretary@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

When the last issue of 'The Gazette' was posted out by e-mail, several messages "bounced" and were returned as undeliverable. If you have changed your e-mail address, please inform me.

If you have your research interests posted on the branch website please check that you have the correct address listed (try sending an e-mail to the address on the list). The research names of a few members have had to be removed from the members' interests pages on the website, because their e-mail addresses are 'bouncing'. If your interests are not on the website and you think they should be, is it because you have changed your e-mail address without telling me?

Brenda I Hustler, Branch Secretary

ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION

Items for publication should be sent to the Acting Editor – Brenda I Hustler, 49 Stone Edge Road, Barrowford, Nelson Lancashire BB9 6BB

email: secretary@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk
