



Pendle & Burnley  
Branch

# The Gazette

Issue 49 January 2013

[www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk](http://www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk)

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## A Great Opportunity

The Branch AGM will soon be taking place in March. This is a great opportunity for more people to join our excellent committee and have the satisfaction of helping to run the Branch.

Last year we were fortunate that we gained a Secretary and a Programme Secretary, and both Arnold and David soon settled in and are doing a really good job. However there are two posts which urgently need filling, those of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Other posts are Projects Co-ordinator, Executive Liaison Officer and Committee Members. All are for a 2 year term of office.

Our hard-working committee have completed another successful year but would really welcome more help to ensure the continued existence of Pendle & Burnley Branch (one of the oldest Branches in the Society).

Newcomers to the committee will have full support from all the members of the Team. Anyone who would like more information please either contact any committee member at the meetings or e-mail me on [enquiry@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk)

In conclusion I make no apologies for repeating last year's appeal below.

This is YOUR Branch. Please give some consideration to taking an active part in helping it to continue.

Jean Ingham (Acting Chairman)

**Branch Contacts:**

**Family History Queries**

Jean Ingham email: enquiry@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

**Secretary**

Arnold Slater email: secretary@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

**Gazette Editor**

Arnold Slater email: editor@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

**Branch Website**

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Our email seems to be getting a little erratic. If you don't receive at least an acknowledgement in a few days then please resend your message.

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**15th May Out Visit**

It has been proposed that we visit the Police Museum in Manchester. Details available later.

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The Libraries at Colne, Nelson and Burnley are now opening from 9.00am

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**DROP-IN FAMILY HISTORY HELP SESSIONS**

**will be held in Colne Library**

**Wednesday 23rd January**

**Wednesday 27th February**

**Wednesday 27th March**

**10.00 am to 12 noon.**

## **BMD PROJECT REPORT JANUARY 2013**

As at the 31st December, a further 2,346 Births, 14,179 Deaths and 17,602 Maiden Names had been added to the Lancashire BMD web site.

All the deaths up to 1974 are now searchable on the web site.

A few completed births are waiting to go to the web master.

The work on adding Maiden Names is an on going project.

Many thanks to the dedicated team of seven volunteers.

Janet Knowles (BMD Co-ordinator)

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## **LIBRARY REPORT January 2013**

New C.D. :- CD028 The Parish Church of St George, Chorley : Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1836-1900. Also includes a grave list and Monumental Inscriptions.

Nothing further to report.

Margaret HEAP (Branch Librarian)

### **MURPHY'S LAWS FOR GENEALOGISTS**

**No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, owned property, was sued, or was named in wills.**

## OBITUARY

### **Keith Baldwin & David Taylor**

Very sadly, I have to report the deaths of two of our members, Keith Baldwin and David Taylor.

Keith Baldwin, who died in November, took on the role of Branch webmaster in 2011. A quiet, friendly and conscientious person he was doing an excellent job and even after he became seriously ill continued to maintain our website. As well as family history he had a keen interest and knowledge of old local bus transport and as a member of the Burnley, Colne & Nelson Bus Society he ran a website for their group. He was always ready to give a helping hand and we will really miss his friendship.

Sadly, just before Christmas, David Taylor died. In the past, David and his wife, Sue, had been very active members, although over the last few years work commitments had prevented them attending meetings.

David had previously held several posts on the committee and served the branch really well as Programme Secretary and Vice Chairman. Much of the display material used at Branch exhibitions had been designed and produced by him. Always cheerful, and hardworking we have some very happy memories of him. One of these was David as Master of Ceremony at our Christmas meetings and the excellent buffets that he and his sisters prepared.

Both of these men were relatively young and we send our condolences and deepest sympathy to Keith's and David's families.

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At the last Committee Meeting it was decided that the Open Morning this year is to be in Barnoldswick. We were very busy in Colne last year and we could do with more people volunteering to help on the day. More details will be available later, but it will probably be in November.

## **2013 PROGRAMME**

- 16 Jan           **Short informal talks by members** of interesting stories from their own researches.
- 30 Jan           **Practical Evening**
- 20 Feb           **'Children working in the mines and in other employment in the Victorian era'**  
Graham Stirrup
- 20 Mar           **A.G.M. and Practical Workshop**
- 17 Apr           **'The House of Clifford'** Gillian Waters
- 15 May           **Out Visit**
- 29 May           **Practical Workshop**
- 19 Jun           **'Beatrix Potter'** Margaret Curry
- ?? Jul           **Practical Evening? Open Evening**  
31? Jul           (Practical evening - date to be arranged)
- 21 Aug           **'DNA in Genealogy'** Rodney Brackstone
- 18 Sep           **'Life in the Workhouse'** Peter Watson
- 16 Oct           **'Origins of Blackpool'** Frank Watson
- 30 Oct           **Practical Evening**
- 20 Nov           **'Thomas Francis Bawden, Royal Marines. 1845-1880'** Brian Jeffrey
- 4 Dec            **Christmas Festivities** (By ticket only)  
**'How I became a Butlin's redcoat'** Dee Ellis

Printed copies of the programme are available.

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## QUERY CORNER

Replies unless otherwise stated to:

Jean Ingham at enquiry@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk



This memorial ribbon was found by one of our members who is willing to donate it to the family.

Do you know of any living family members?

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Janet GIBSON would like to hear from anyone tracing the HARTLEYS of Oakworth, West Yorkshire who originated from the Trawden/Colne area.

James HARTLEY was born in Trawden c1834.

His parents were James HARTLEY and Mary WOOLER/HOOLER who married in St. Bartholomew's, Colne on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1821.

Janet believes his grandparents were James HARTLEY and Grace STANSFIELD who married in St. Bartholomew's, Colne on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1781

# ***Getting to Know Lancashire Archives***

Have you ever wondered how to use the searchroom at Lancashire Archives?

What sort of records we hold?

How to find your great-great-grandfather's will?

What goes on behind the scenes?

If so, these sessions may interest you.

An archivist will describe some of the sources we hold and how Lancashire Archives works. They will explain some of the procedures and give guidance on how to use the finding aids helping you to make the best use of your time when you next visit.

Sessions will be held at 2.30pm in the Record Office on the second Friday of each month;

8 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July,  
9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November,  
13 December

Each session is FREE and will last 1½ - 2 hours.

Places are limited so advance booking is essential

To book a place please telephone on 01772 533039

or email the record office at [record.office@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@lancashire.gov.uk)

## **Lancashire Archives Opening Hours**

**Monday – 9am – 5pm**

**Tuesday – 9am – 8.30pm**

**Wednesday – 9am – 5pm**

**Thursday – 10am – 5pm**

**Friday – 9am – 5pm**

**Second Saturday of every month - 10am – 4pm**

## **ARCHIVES NEWS**

A number of Archives are reporting revised opening times, some to due to refurbishment and others due to the restrictions on finances. If you intend to visit any of these Archives you are advised to check the opening times and availability of the collections before arranging a visit.

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### **GAZETTE – Editor – Arnold Slater**

Articles are always welcome, I will try and fit them in as soon as possible.

The Gazette is published four times a year, January, April, July and October and is available to read on our website in HTML or .PDF format. Please let me know if you require notifying by email when the Gazette is available online.

Articles for the **April Gazette** by the **end of March** please.

Please send articles to Editor at [lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk](mailto:lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk) or by post to the Editor,  
c/o 6 Sussex Street, Barnoldswick, Lancashire BB18 5DS

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### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

**A reminder that subscriptions were due on the 1st of January.**

Subscriptions have been increased as from January 1st 2013.

Ordinary £14, Pensioner/Student £12, Family £15, Overseas £16

## Unexpected outcomes by Rod Moorhouse

About 18 months ago I wrote an article for the *Cheshire Ancestor*, the magazine of the Cheshire FHS. The starting point for this article was an entry found in a great aunt's autograph book. She was a member of the Territorial Force Nursing Service and served full time at the 4th London General Hospital looking after wounded soldiers from 1914 to 1920. The entry reads: -

*Pte T Eyres 3038*

*5th Cheshire Regt.*

*"I was wounded on the 24th July at Ypres taken to Bouloigne the next day then I was bought over on the 30th to the 4th London General Hospital"*

This was one of the few entries amongst a large collection which gave rank, name, army number, battalion, and regiment. With a feeling of hope and anticipation I searched online for Thomas's details and found the amazing but tragic story of a WW1 hero. His attestation papers, which he signed on the 20th of November, 1914 stated that he lived in Northwich, Cheshire where he worked as a labourer. Following a period of training he was sent to France on 1st July 1915. His record confirmed that he was wounded three weeks later on the 24th July, a broken jaw which necessitated treatment at the 4th London General Hospital [this was Kings College Hospital in Denmark Hill] where he remained until the 27th September 1915 – 60 days in total.

Having found the right man I then wrote my article. From census records it was possible to trace his family background and to confirm his date of birth using the BMD indices before compiling a detailed account of his war service. The War graves Commission web site produced his memorial inscription and the date he was killed on the battlefield in 1918. I sent the finished article to the *Cheshire Ancestry* with the hope that it might be of interest to Thomas Eyre's descendents.

Soon after the article was published I was surprised to receive three quite different emails. The first came from a local historian. He explained that although not related to the Eyres family he was interested in them in connection with his research into the history of Lostock Gralam where they were prominent. He explained that he had tried to trace Private Thomas Eyres on the Commonwealth

War Graves Commission's website but could only find 52097 Sergeant Thomas Eyres of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Cheshire regiment. The difference in rank had always left him unhappy about this possible connection. He went on to request copies of all the information I had collected about this soldier.

I was happy to respond and felt pleased to be making a contribution to local history research. I sent all my information to him, including evidence that after recovering from his wounds Thomas had been redrafted, given a new army number 52097, then sent back to France and eventually promoted to become a Sergeant in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Cheshires.

The second email was sent by a Mr Eyres. He explained how he is related to Private Thomas Eyres who was the son of his grandfather's brother. He explained how for many years he believed that his Uncle Tom was the WW1 hero talked about by his Gran - she kept his medals and some souvenirs in a drawer, but these really belonged to *Great* Uncle Tom – Private Thomas Eyres! I sent him all my information about his relative. He later emailed expressing his thanks and explaining how this information had helped to solve some confusion about one or two relatives he knew as a child; *"These details have helped me to fill in a few gaps of a very large family tree"*.

The third email was sent by another man who is not related to the Eyres family. He asked whether I might be able to help him with a ten year quest to learn more about his Great Uncle's WW1 involvement. Augustus Frank Smith was known to have served in the Royal Army Medical Corps [R.A.M.C.] and may have been injured but apart from that he said there were only "disconnected snippets of information". His email ended by saying, *"It is a long shot I know but if you happened to come across an Augustus Frank Smith in your great Aunt's autograph book I would be delighted to hear from you."*

There are no soldiers of that name in the Autograph book but I was intrigued to know more so began to search the available WW1 Military records online. There was no mention of an Augustus Frank Smith. Using the Medal Roll index I then searched for a *Frank* Smith and very soon found a Private of that name who had served in the R.A.M.C. Using this soldier's regimental number I next searched WW1 Soldiers Records but this drew a blank. I then thought if he was injured he might have been

discharged with a pension. So I searched in the WW1 Pension Records and found a Private *Frank* Smith, R.A.M.C with the same regimental number. From the Medical Assessment documents I was able to list his personal details. An exchange of emails with Mr Smith soon confirmed that Private *Frank* Smith was indeed *Augustus* Frank Smith; for whatever reason he had left out his first name when enlisting. He then asked me to send all the information to be found in Frank's Pension Record. Eventually a detailed account of Frank's wartime exploits was sent off. After receiving this Mr Smith expressed his delight and an intention to pursue some of the facts now revealed.

I am still amazed at the wealth of information and the fascinating biographies which resulted from the original Thomas Eyres article. Great aunt Annie's Autograph books contains around 90 separate entries and drawings. Few are as complete in terms of personal details as Thomas's and in turn very few of these can be traced in WW1 military records. It is just fortunate that Thomas's service record has survived in an undamaged condition.

I was equally fascinated by the complexity of Private Frank Smith's service exploits. It was fortunate that his pension record was found intact and that it provided sufficient detail to prove that we had finally found Private *Augustus* Frank Smith.

*Author's note: apart from 'Eyres' any other surnames mentioned in this article have been fictionalised*

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### **Change of address**

Would you please ensure that the Secretary is informed of any change of address – **including email address**

**This year is the  
40th Anniversary of the Society.**

**On September 14th there will be an  
Exhibition & Conference  
at King George's Hall, Blackburn  
to celebrate the 40th Anniversary  
of the founding of  
Lancashire Family History & Heraldry  
Society.**

**Volunteers will be needed to represent  
our branch at this event**

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### **Primet Hill Butcher's Shop**

After the October meeting someone asked Jill Pengelly about the butchers shop at 15 Primet Hill.

Jill has found the following information:

1911 census – James Smith – Butcher  
c1930 – George Collinson – Butcher  
1932 to 1960 Charles Wilkinson – Butcher – later moved to  
Market Street.

Previous occupants of 15 Primet Bridge:

1881 - Jane Duerden – Cotton Weaver  
1891 – Annie Willott – Dressmaker  
1901 – Mary Walton (retired)