



Pendle & Burnley  
Branch

# The Gazette

Issue 56 October 2014

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

## Family History Morning

Colne Library

1st November 2014

10.00am to 1.00pm

If you would like to help please see Jean Ingham

### 2014 PROGRAMME

- 29th Oct      **Practical Evening**
- 19th Nov     **'For King and Country'** Steve Williams
- 3rd Dec      **Christmas Festivities** (By ticket only)

**Short talks by members showing, and talking about, their family heirlooms.  
At Colne Library.**

**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

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**GAZETTE** – Editor – Arnold Slater

Articles for the **January 1915 Gazette** by the **end of December** please.

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

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**Change of address**

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

Tickets for the December Meeting will be available at the October 29th and November meetings.

Tickets £2.00 restricted to 50 members

Note: This meeting is at Colne Library

## **QUERY CORNER**

If you have any of the following people on your family tree please let Jean know.

### **CLEGG or SMITH**

Mary Elizabeth CLEGG (may have been Mary Elizabeth SMITH), possibly born Burnley 1879/1880. Her mother's maiden name, Mary SMITH, born 1854. Both of them emigrated to Fall River, Massachusetts USA. Mary Elizabeth married Evariste LARRIVEE at Fall River in 1900.

### **LAMBERT**

John LAMBERT born 1826 in Barnoldswick but baptised at Methodist Chapel Horton in Craven. He became a school master at Denaby, S Yorkshire. Later was a publican in Crank, Lancashire. His parents were John LAMBERT, place of birth unknown and Jane WINDLE birthplace, Roughlee, Lancashire. John (senior) and Jane LAMBERT and family living at Cowling Hill, Yorkshire in 1841. John (senior) died between 1841 and 1851 census.

### **SHARPLES**

Geoff is interested in the SHARPLES families of Cliviger and Burnley, particularly prior to mid 1800s. He has found that several of his ancestors were born in Cliviger but baptised, married and buried at St. Peter's, Burnley.

### **LANGFORD**

William Growdon LANGFORD born 1828 in Cornwall. He and his family moved to Burnley between 1871 and 1881. In 1881 census was living in Habergham Eaves and in 1891 was in Ightenhill area.



Good day

I have come across this photograph amongst my late mother-in-law's collection.

My wife and I think it could be Eliza Ann Roberts, her parents and brother. Eliza is my wife's great grandmother. She married Petherick Williams in Burnley in 1884 and moved to Australia shortly thereafter (suspect 1887).

Do you or any of your society's members recognise this family? If we are correct then this is the only photograph we have of Eliza and will be very much treasured.

Thank you very much in anticipation

Yours faithfully

Russell Clark

Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

## **Salford Quays and Media City Tour Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2014**

As a break with tradition the annual July day trip was held in June to take advantage of "Moving People's" scheduled excursion to Salford Quays including a BBC Media City tour. A group of 20 members helped to fill up the coach for this popular trip.

Setting off from Clayton Business Park at 9am we reached Salford Quays by 10am, giving coach driver Andy the opportunity to point out where the main attractions were, Media City, The Imperial War Museum North, The Lowry Centre and the Shopping Outlet, and the recently relocated Coronation Street studios.

Media City is a privately owned hub of media facilities, studios and offices which are rented out, most notably to the BBC who occupy three office blocks. After we had been checked in we met our two young guides and began the tour at the mock "Breakfast" studio where volunteers could test their skills as presenters on the red settee. We certainly gained respect for the weather presenters who have no autocue to help them. On display round this studio were dresses worn on Strictly Come Dancing by Ann Widdecombe, Kara Tointon, and Felicity Kendall.

Peeking through the windows of the Sports newsroom, beyond the open-plan office, we glimpsed the reporter, live on air, just finishing his broadcast. We were then taken to see a Radio 6 music studio, where our guides explained how the DJs work. In the radio drama studio we got a very interesting overview of how BBC radio dramas are produced and saw some of the special effects they use, including a dead room where there is no echo. Yet amidst all the sophisticated technology, still the most effective way to make the sound of horses' hooves is with a pair of coconut shells!

Next we were shown the enormous studio, with its excellent acoustics, used by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, and finally the new Blue Peter studio which seemed surprisingly small. Our guides explained how the layout and lighting could be changed to suit requirements.

The tour lasted about 90 minutes and had been very interesting and informative. It was now time for lunch, with the rest of the afternoon free to pay a visit to the Imperial War Museum, go shopping, or visit the Lowry. At our meeting three days before we'd had a talk on the Life of L.S.Lowry, so it seemed appropriate to have a look at the Lowry paintings with renewed appreciation.

On the return journey the raffle prize, a £5 M&S voucher, was won by Mike Smith.

Many thanks to Mary Jackson for arranging this trip, and we were sorry she couldn't come with us, we certainly missed her. She might have found a Segway useful – a two-wheeled, self-balancing vehicle we were amused to see people using to get around between the buildings at Media City.

Sylvia Marshall

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**You know you're addicted to genealogy when:**

You hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery

You would rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall

You think every home should have a microfilm reader

You would rather read census schedules than a good book

You know every registrar in your district by name

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## 2015 PROGRAMME

- 21st Jan **"Bene and Hot - The Tommies' Tipple. From Palais Benedictine to Plumbe Street, Burnley"**  
Denise North
- 18th Feb **"The buried treasure of James Dixon"**  
David Pilkington / Harriet Roberts
- 18th Mar **A.G.M. and Practical Workshop**
- 15th Apr **"Preston Record Office"**  
David Tildsley
- 29th Apr **Practical Workshop**
- 20th May **Out visit**
- 17th June **"Origin of place names"**  
Peter Watson
- ?? July **Practical Evening / Open Evening**  
?? July **??**
- 19th Aug **"Lady Randy" Winston Churchill's mother**  
Pat Osbourne
- 16th Sept **"Wills and Probate Records"**  
David Lambert
- 30th Sept **Practical Evening**
- 21st Oct **"Who was my uncle Bilsbarrow?"**  
Tony Foster
- 18th Nov **"Grandmother's Letters"**  
Alan Crosby
- 2nd Dec **Christmas Party** - to be arranged

**Printed copies of the programme are available**

## **SHIRLEY WHITTLE**

**1941 – 2014**

It is with great sorrow that we report the death of Shirley WHITTLE, after a very short illness.

Shirley was a member for several years and really loved coming to Branch meetings, and in fact, attended one only a few days before her death.

She enthusiastically took an active part in many of the Branch events, setting up the room for the monthly meetings and helping to prepare exhibitions at Open days and Fairs. Last year members enjoyed a short talk which she gave about her French ancestry.

Always happy to help other members, cheerful and always a smile for everyone, Shirley was a lovely lady whose friendship we will really miss.

We send our sincere sympathy and condolences to Shirley's husband, Ken, and the family.

## **EDNA SIMPSON**

**1922 - 2014**

Edna died in a Nursing Home at Croston on 25th May this year, a few weeks after falling and breaking her hip.

Edna was a longtime member of our Branch and in the earlier days helped with the brewing up at meetings. She was still attending regularly well into her eighties, and she will be remembered sitting on the front row, (forgiven for occasionally nodding off!) in the days before the library lecture room was extended to its present form.

When she could no longer cope with living alone, Edna had to leave her bungalow in Read and went to be cared for in a Nursing Home in Croston, not far from where her son Andy and his family live.

In 1946, as Edna Parker, she married Fred Simpson at All Saints, Habergham Eaves. Fred had been a Spitfire pilot during the Second World War, although Edna rarely mentioned this, and he shared Edna's fascination with family history research, at one time being our Branch treasurer. Fred died in about 1987, aged 67, but Edna lived to the ripe old age of 91. She is buried at Wheatley Lane, Fence along with Fred and the many ancestors whose lives she so earnestly researched over many years. She was a gentle lady, ever willing to engage in long discussions about her Parker ancestors and memories of her early life in Burnley.

Our condolences go to Andy and all the family.

### **SOCIETY LUNCH**

Sunday – 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

Those members who supported the Society Lunch at Nelson House will not need reminding that it was a really great way to spend Sunday lunchtime! For those who could not attend, in the words of Mike Coyle, the Society's Chairman, "you missed a treat"!

Nelson House proved an excellent venue, providing superb food, served by very efficient young waitresses – equal to any five star establishment. (If you are ever fortunate enough to be invited to dine there, do not hesitate to accept!)

Following the meal, and a Loyal Toast to the Queen, Duke of Lancaster, by Mike Coyle, Mervyn Hadfield, our speaker, was introduced by Jean Ingham. He was born and spent his early years in Burnley, and captivated us all whilst reading his own dialect poems about his childhood there, bringing smiles to the faces of many in his enthralled audience. Life was very different in Burnley in the 1940's and 50's – and for almost an hour we were transported back to those days, some with happy recollections, others just glad life has moved on!

Next year the Annual Society Lunch is to be hosted by the Ribble Valley Branch. It is sure to be an event not to be missed if it is organized as well as Arnold Slater co-ordinated the arrangements

for this year's "do". There will be many who have saved their personal menu card – so much helpful information in such a concise form – everyone was very impressed!

The verdict – a thoroughly enjoyable, well-organized event that the Branch can safely say proved to be a great success.

Mary Jackson

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## **Captain Harold Hopwood MC of the West Riding Regiment**

By Rod Moorhouse

Harold was the second son of my great aunt Sarah Ann Hopwood, nee Moorhouse who came from Burnley. He was born in January 1895 when she and her husband, John were living at 'Peace Villa', on Gargrave Road, Skipton. Other than his birth facts I know nothing of his early life so can only guess that he may have attended a local elementary school and the Sunday school at Water Street Methodist Chapel where his mother and father were both teachers. Judging by his later achievements in the Army he may have attended a grammar school.

I first discovered the existence of Harold Hopwood while reading a family history document written by his mother who was my great aunt Sarah Ann. She mentions Harold in a poignant paragraph about the First World War, "*..... Mother passed away at Easter time in 1915. My younger boy Harold was in the forces at the time having joined as a private in the 6th Duke of Wellington's. They were waiting to be sent to France, so a few days after we laid mother to rest we motored to Doncaster and saw Harold and many more Skipton boys entrain to an unknown destination near to the fighting lines.....*" Harold is never mentioned again in this account of her life so I began to wonder what had happened to him and whether he ever returned from the war.

In a commemorative book entitled, '*Cravens Part in the Great War*' which was published in 1919, the name of Private H Hopwood appears on the Nominal Roll of the 1/6th Battalion of the Duke of Wellingtons' regiment. According to information gleaned from websites the 1/6th Battalion of the Duke of Wellingtons [West Riding Regiment] was a territorial unit based at Skipton.

When war broke out in August 1914, the unit was quickly mobilised for war service and then moved to positions on the coastal defences near to Hull. On the 5th of November they were billeted in Doncaster for the winter where they trained in preparation for service overseas. They went to France on the 16th of April 1915, sailing from Folkestone to Boulogne. As part of the 147th Brigade, 49th (West Riding) Division their first action was at Aubers Ridge in May 1915. In 1916 they took part in the Battles on the Somme. In 1917 they were involved in operations on the Flanders Coast and the third Battle of Ypres. In 1918 they were in action during the Battles of the Lys, the pursuit to the Selle and the final advance into Picardy. At the Armistice, the 49th Division was resting at Douai. They began to demobilise during 1919. So, what part did Private Hopwood play in all these events?

A more detailed account of the progress of the 1/6 Battalion can be found in '*Cravens Part in the Great War*'. Page 29 mentions a heroic act when "*On the 11th October [1918]..... they were soon mingled with the front line on top of the ridge and there saw enemy tanks advancing through the division causing many casualties. Lieut. Hopwood, with Corporal Ames and a party of D company Lewis gunners, opened concentrated fire upon the leading tanks and caused them all to retire.....*" Following this action it is possible Harold was commended for his bravery and awarded the Military Cross.

This award is confirmed by an entry further down the same page which states "*....By these advances Lieut. Hopwood, M.C.....*" His name is also on the list of Military Honours to be found on Page 381 under the heading of '*The Military Cross*'.

Private Harold Hopwood's medal roll card can be found in the National Archives. It is quite detailed and confirms some of the facts mentioned in this account of his Army career. His

address is stated as 'Fern Bank' Skipton, Yorks. Under the heading '*theatre of war first served in*' the card shows '(1)' which, according to an index of abbreviations to be found on the Ancestry Website, indicates 'Western Europe'. The date of entry shown is "14-4-15".

His medals include the 1915 Star which tells us he was in action at the fighting front during that year. He must have survived the battles which followed in 1916 because on the 24-1-17 his medal card states that he was commissioned to become a 2nd Lieutenant. He was later promoted to Lieutenant, [Acting Captain] and this is confirmed by an announcement in the London Gazette of 2nd April 1919.

It has been estimated that eight out of ten British soldiers who fought in WW1 returned home. Many of them were physically and/or mentally injured while others appeared to return to civilian life with relative ease. If Harold Hopwood took part in all the actions accredited to the West Riding Division and survived without major injury then that would be remarkable; but sure enough, his name can be found in the West Yorkshire, Electoral Register for 1920 living with his parents at '*Fernbank*', in Skipton. Similar entries continue until 1930 when I have reason to believe he may have left Skipton.

How can I find out more about Harold Hopwood in WW1? Information from the National Archives at Kew states that there are service records in WO 374 of 77,799 officers who held a Territorial Army commission or a temporary commission? It is just possible that Harold's record may be amongst this collection.

Should the opportunity arise then I would hope to pursue this line of enquiry. I would also be pleased to hear from any of his relatives with a view to expanding Harold's story and to exchange family history information.

*'Cravens Part in the Great War' can be read online at [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk)*

I can be contacted on [rodmoorhouse@ntlworld.com](mailto:rodmoorhouse@ntlworld.com)