



Pendle & Burnley
Branch

The Gazette

Issue 66 April 2017

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Branch AGM 16th March

The following were elected to serve on the committee.

Period	Official	Nominee
1 year	Chairman	Mike Smith
1 year	Vice Chairman	Pat Dyson
1 year	Programme Secretary	Sylvia Marshall
2 years	Treasurer	Janet Knowles
2 years	Librarian	Margaret Heap
2 years	Minute Secretary	Margaret Heap
2 years	Committee Member	Mary Jackson
2 years	Committee Member	Geoffrey Riley
2 years	Committee Member	Arlene Naylor

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2017 Subscriptions are now overdue !

If you have not renewed your subscription it could mean you didn't receive the Society's February journal or the Branch Gazette. A Subscription renewal form was issued with the November journal or you could renew online through the Society's online shop at: www.lfhhs.org/index.php

2017 Programme

17th May	Outvisit to Newchurch
31st May	Practical Evening topic to be announced
21st June	"Wills and Probate Records" David Lambert
19th July	Coach Trip to Newby Hall
16th Aug	"The History of Lancaster Castle" Graham Kemp
30th Aug	Practical Evening topic to be announced
20th Sept	"The Liverpool Cowkeepers" Dave Joy
18th Oct	"And in Flew Enza" Tony Foster
15th Nov	"WWI talk" (topic to be chosen) Richard Wimpenny
29th Nov	Practical Evening topic to be announced
6th Dec	Christmas Party (By Ticket Only) "The Way Things Used To Be" Harold Hoggarth

COSTS FOR TRIPS

17th May Outvisit to Newchurch

The guided tour of this historic 16th Century Church and its surrounding grounds begins at 2 p.m. prompt. Please meet at the church porch by 1.50 p.m.

Car parking on the road is very limited, so please "car share" wherever possible.

Cost £3 including tea and biscuits

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19th July Coach Trip to Newby Hall

At the moment the cost is £27, but could be less if all places are filled.

More information from Mary Jackson

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On 4th November
we are having an
Open Morning
at
Colne Library
9.30am to 12.30pm

please note the date as volunteers will be
needed to help with any queries

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From Colliery Agent to Convict

Richard Bryham was born at Lowther in the former county of Westmorland, the seventh of the thirteen children of William Bryham, stable groom to Lord Lonsdale of Lowther Hall.

Lord Lonsdale owned several coal mines in the north of England and he employed Richard and his brother William in the management of them. In 1799-1801 they were two of the Colliery Viewers appointed by the Lord Chancellor to report on investigations into the working of three pits in Workington, Cumberland.

By 1817 Richard had moved to Upholland, Lancashire and working as a Colliery Agent and Surveyor. He was married that year at All Saint's, Wigan to Mary Chamberlaine of Wigan and they had three children – William 1819-1893; John 1826-1831 and Anne 1829-1845.

The Criminal Register for 1837 shows that on 6th Nov Richard Bryham was sentenced at Wigan Borough Sessions to Transportation for 7 years for Larceny. The trial was reported in the Bolton Chronicle of 11th November 1837.

“A trial of considerable interest to coal masters, took place at these sessions on Monday last. The case was as follows: John Abbott and Richard Bryham, two persons hitherto considered respectable, the former as a tradesman, the latter as a surveyor, were placed at the bar on an indictment charging them with stealing a quantity of coal, the property of Mr. Dawson. The indictment was framed under the statute of George IV, which renders the getting of mines under the property of another person a common larceny, subjecting the offender to imprisonment not exceeding two years, or to seven years’ transportation.....”

It would seem that the coalmine where Richard was surveyor had extended under neighbouring land owned by Mr Dawson. There was no report of the evidence against the accused or the case for the defence. The Recorder said a jury had found them guilty of stealing a large quantity of coals and he was quite satisfied of their guilt because he was convinced that *“day by day, for several months, they had been committing a deliberate felony.”*

On Dec 1st 1837 Richard was put onto the Prison Hulk 'Fortitude' at Chatham and the Gaoler's Report was shown as "*Previous character irreproachable.*" He was transferred to the 'Bengal Merchant' which departed for New South Wales, Australia on 24th March 1838. The 1838 Australian Convict Index shows him as "*aged 60, born in Westmorland, occupation Land Surveyor.*"

On the 1841 census, Richard's wife Mary was shown living with their son William at Rose Bridge, Ince near Wigan and her occupation was a School Mistress. In September of that year, three newspapers in Australia published the following notice -

"His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that in pursuance of a Despatch, dated 1st March 1841, No 211, from the Right Hon. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, conditional pardons have been granted to John Abbott and Richard Bryham." A conditional pardon meant he became a free man again, but could not return to any part of the United Kingdom until the end of 7 years and would have to pay his own fare back home.

Richard placed an advert in Sydney Morning Herald for three weeks in order to find work.

"Wanted, a situation by a middle aged person to take the management of Colliery Works as an agent or viewer; directing management of the same; as Land Surveyor; or Tutor to a gentleman's family; or to take charge of a school. Address Mr. Richard Bryham, at Mr. Thomas Merchant's, town of Paterson."

The NSW Returns of the Colony for 1843 showed he had found work as a School Master at Paterson Presbyterian School which had 13 male and 12 female pupils.

When the seven years transportation was almost completed, his son William raised the money for his return journey to England and placed it to his father's credit. However, the family reunion would not take place. A few days before embarkation, Richard was taken ill and died shortly afterward.

NSW Register of Coroner's Inquests: *No. 2680: 25 Sep 1844 at Paterson, Inquest on the death of Richard Bryham; Coroner, 8 Oct 1844 "Visitation of God."*

The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser for 5th Oct 1844 gave more information.

Inquest

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, September the 25th, before J. S. Parker, Esq, coroner, on the body of a man named Richard Bryham, at Haughton, on the Upper Paterson. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased was a person of intemperate habits; and he had complained of being unwell for a day or two before his death. He died about half past six o'clock on the morning on the 24th. Dr. Park made a post mortem examination, and certified that the deceased appeared to have been labouring under acute inflammation of the lungs, particularly the left side, which was completely saturated with blood, and there was also an effusion of water into the pericardium. The jury returned a verdict of died by the visitation of God.”

Fifteen months later Richard's wife Mary died aged 57 years. Her obituary in the Manchester Chronicle mentions how badly she had been affected by her husband's transportation and that their son William had taken care of her and his sister. Mary was buried on 15 Feb 1846 at St Thomas the Martyr, Upholland, where their son John and daughter Anne had been buried.

Richard's trial and transportation did not appear to have had a detrimental effect on the career of his son William. He became Manager of Rosebridge Colliery at Ince belonging to Messrs. Case & Morris. By 1881 he was also a Magistrate and in 1889 was on Wigan Board of Guardians for Ince-in-Makerfield District.

Sources:-

Access to Archives: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a

Ancestry www.ancestry.co.uk

Australian Newspapers Online <https://trove.nla.au/newspapers>

British Newspapers www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Cumbria Record Office: Collection of Lonsdale Papers

Lancashire Online Parish Clerk www.lan-opc.org.uk

Northumberland Record Office: Papers of the North of England Mining

Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers: Watson Collection

QUERY CORNER

Joan CARRINGTON

An enquirer is researching the life of the actress, Joan CARRINGTON, who featured in several productions at the Victoria Theatre, Burnley in 1928/29. Is there anyone who has this theatre's records or programmes for these years?

Inman WHITAKER (1852 – 1928)

His great grand daughter is tracing Inman and his family and would love to hear from anyone also tracing him.

Inman was born in Bolton by Bowland, the son of Abigail WHITAKER. In 1873 he married Mary Jane HARTLEY at St Bartholomew's church, Colne.

He had many different occupations during his lifetime, joiner, watch & clock repairer, music teacher, bandsman and photographer. After marrying, he lived in Nelson until moving to Bournemouth c 1910, where he died in 1928.

William FORSYTH

Howard is trying to determine where in Scotland his maternal 2 x great grandfather, William FORSYTH, was born. In 1851 he was living at Union Row, Higher Booths, aged 37, labourer at Print works, with his wife Lucy and 9 children, his place of birth just Scotland and all other census up to 1911 says, just Scotland.

He married Lucy CHADWICK in 1831 at Church Kirk.

Also looking for a David FORSYTH, possibly his brother, who married a Betsy PROCTER in 1828, at Church Kirk.

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MURPHY'S LAW FOR GENEALOGISTS

The town clerk to whom you wrote for the information sends you a long handwritten letter which is totally illegible.

GAZETTE – Editor – Arnold Slater

Articles for the **July 2017 Gazette**
by the **end of June** 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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Branch Contacts:

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Secretary

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Branch Website

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

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MURPHY'S LAW FOR GENEALOGISTS

John, son of Thomas, the immigrant whom your relatives claim as the family progenitor, died on board ship at age 10.

The keeper of the vital records you need has just been insulted by another genealogist.

The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead-end line has been lost due to fire, flood, or war.

Henry Miller and the War diaries – by Rod Moorhouse

One of my current family history fascinations is reading extracts from the official WW1 war diaries held at the National Archives and now available on line, particularly via Ancestry.com. In the words of the website, *“These collections are extra special as they include daily reports on operations from the Western Front and the Gallipoli Campaign. You can find out where your ancestors were and what they were doing at particular periods during the war. The level of detail varies depending on who was filling in each diary - but at times you can read what the weather was like and how morale was holding up. You'll even find hour-by-hour accounts of some of WWI's largest battles, from the soldiers' point-of-view.”*

I do not agree with the certainty of this statement; in fact you cannot find out where your ancestors were or what they were doing without knowing some details about their Army background and when and where they were posted. Even then there may not be diaries which match your information. After searching through some of my ancestors who were soldiers in WW1 I failed to make such a match and so for the purposes of this article I have used an example taken from another source.

My wife's Great Aunt was an Army nurse during WW1. For most of the war she was a ward sister at the 4th London General Hospital in Denmark Hill. She kept autograph books at that time and two of them have survived. Amongst the entries there is one written by a soldier named Private Henry Miller. Although brief it contains the following valuable information:-

His Army number was 11008

He served with C Company of the 2nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry Regiment

He was wounded in action on Sunday Sept. 20th, 1914 in the Battle of the Aïnse.

Information about Henry Miller's background and his Army career can be found in WW1 Soldiers Pension Records [*via Ancestry.com*]. This includes his medical records and his discharge documents. Beyond that it is difficult to imagine what he endured when sent to the fighting front in France. However, by using the name of Henry's Regiment, the Battalion number and the date he was wounded it is possible to find out what was happening at the battle front at that time.

The diaries of the 2nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry Regiment are available. They are clearly written and start from the beginning of the war. On or around August 14th the Battalion was gathering up various detachments to a camp on Jesus Common, Cambridge. It may be assumed Henry Miller was part of this mustering phase as his Attestation papers state that he joined the Regiment in 1910. After a few weeks of training the battalion marched to Newmarket. The soldiers and their officers then boarded two trains to begin a journey which would transfer them to the battle front in France within about ten days. After leaving Southampton on board two ships they disembarked at St Nazaire on 8th September and travelled across France by train. Finally they marched to Bourq and later entered the trenches at Troyan, North of the river Aise. By about 1.00 p.m. on 19th September they were in position. The action which followed is best described by an extract from the 2nd Battalion's War diary:-

"20 September 1914, Troyan Owing to a white flag incident on the right giving way, reported to be caused by a white flag incident, our right flank was enfiladed by an enemy machine gun and suffered loss until the battalion in reserve reoccupied the trenches on the right flank. One company and a half on the left flank left their trenches and advanced and suffered loss until they returned to their trenches....."

Then follows a list naming the officers killed or wounded in that action, with a simple statement which records, "N.C.O.s and men killed 36 wounded 92". In one day the casualties were equivalent in number to a whole company or approximately 1/5th of the battalion! According to the available facts then it is probable that one of the 92 wounded was Henry Miller.

When reading the diaries forward from this day then the action begins to sound repetitious. The 2nd Battalion was frequently relocated, billeted, re-clothed, held in reserve, sent to defend the trenches, attack enemy positions and then withdraw to billets etc. Every few days the diary gives an account of those killed, wounded or missing. The average always seems to be round about 75 NCOs' and ordinary ranks plus a few officers. Reinforcements are mentioned but they arrive at irregular intervals and rarely appear to match the Battalion's losses.

Apart from a sense of horror concerning the fate of Henry and his companions the diaries seem to underline the futility of this form of warfare. So long as both sides could be supplied with replacement soldiers, equipment, ammunition and food it would continue for the next four years with little change to the pattern of events described. The diaries are written in a dispassionate and objective style, a bureaucratic summary of events which make no attempt to evaluate the decisions taken before actions took place or to assess the outcomes.

Even so the interest for me when reading the diaries lies in the detail and the possibility of 'reading between the lines' in the attempt to imagine what these undoubtedly brave soldiers had to endure. Death or wounding seemed to be inevitable.

Footnote: Henry Miller's Army medical records state that he was shot in the left arm and confirm he was eventually treated at the 4th London General Hospital following admission on 27th Sept 1914. Later he was assessed as unfit for service due to a significant reduction in the use of his left hand. He was subsequently discharged from the Army on the 25th of January 1915.

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Orange email is closing on 31st May 2017

If you have an Orange email address you should have had an email or letter from them stating that the Orange email service will end on 31st May 2017.

When you have created a new email address please let the Membership Secretary know.

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PRACTICAL EVENINGS

So far this year we have had talks on Newspapers online and how to use Mario maps.

We would welcome suggestions for topics for future meetings.

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A DROP-IN FAMILY HISTORY HELP SESSION

will be held at Colne Library on the following date:

26th April

10 am to 12 noon

Volunteers welcome

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Old maps online

After the Mario Maps session I have been given another website where you can compare up to date maps with various old maps. The maps on this website cover the whole of the Country.

Search for side by side scottish maps online then open side by side viewer

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MURPHY'S LAW FOR GENEALOGISTS

You finally find your great grandparent's wedding records and discover that the bride's father was named John Smith.

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