

The  
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Magazine  
of Local History

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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, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne.

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

Yearly subscription £4.00, includes evening lectures and field trips, the Mourholme Magazine and access to the Society's archival material.

Application for membership should be made to Mrs. J. Chatterley, 173a Main Street, Warton, Carnforth, Lancashire.

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# GLIMPSES OF A DECADE: the Mourholme Parishes in the 1830s Part 1.

Jean Chatterley

Reports in local newspapers give an incomplete picture of any place at any stage in its history, but they are nonetheless valuable for the glimpses given of contemporary life and events. The picture of our local area which emerges from the *Lancaster Gazettes* of 1830-1840 is of a scene very different from the present one. Carnforth was a small hamlet, and the coming of the railway was three decades away. The Lancaster Canal was a newcomer to the area, and notices of property sales gave distances from the Canal, as well as from Warton and Burton, the two main settlements.

Most of the land, then as now, was devoted to livestock. Reports of annual agricultural shows reflect the importance of improving the breeding herds. This comes from the Gazette of November 9th, 1833:-

*The Burton-in-Kendal Agricultural Society held their first Annual Meeting...we now have the authority of several gentlemen farmers who attended the Manchester, Lancaster, Kendal and other meetings for stating that, in point of symmetry, beauty and excellence of breeding, the show at Burton-in-Kendal exceeded every show that has this year taken place in the West of England.*

Two of the prizes given on that occasion were for rams of the Warton Crag breed. The Warton Lord of the Manor, John Bolden, specialised in short horned cattle: an auction of his "small but entire select herd" was advertised on September 1st, 1838. There was no dairying industry to speak of: most cottagers either had their own milk cow or took a can to a nearby farm. The Gazette of February 28th, 1835 reported some French experiments to preserve milk:-

*It is nothing less than reducing milk to a solid state, so that an inhabitant of Paris may*

procure his supply from Normandy, or Auvergne, and preserve it in the same manner as sugar. This discovery...will make a great revolution in a part of our alimentary regimen and in a very considerable branch of agriculture.

Cattle were driven along the roads. In October 1831 royal assent was given to a Bill:-

...to exempt cattle and other beasts from the payment of tolls when going to or from water or pasture, or to and from being shod or farried, and not passing more than two miles on the road...

Sheep were also prominent, and wool sales an important source of income:-

The demand for ordinary wool continues brisk...the finest qualities, being scarce, go off at very good prices. (August 14th, 1830)

There was no weather forecasting, but every week the paper included paragraphs detailing the past week's weather and its effect on farming and other aspects of local life. One of the most noticeable differences between life then and now is the extent to which all activity was controlled by the weather. The winter of 1830 was a severe one: this is from January 13th.

The frost, which lasted nine weeks, continued up to Saturday evening, when we had a heavy fall of snow, accompanied by a boisterous wind...a change of wind...took place on Sunday, in consequence of which the ships, which have been so long beating about in the Channel, have begun to arrive in considerable numbers. This circumstance will, happily, afford employment to many persons who have so long been out of work.

Summers could bring hardships, too. This extract is from August 14th, 1830.

More rain has lately fallen than is convenient just at the commencement of the harvest.

The storm...in its utmost violence, the hailstones...measured upwards of 6½ ins. in circumference and did much damage.

1835 was also difficult weatherwise. This is from May 23rd.

...our country neighbours may at length begin to look forward to some relief from the heavy pressure that the past unfavourable season has occasioned. Great distress has been felt for want of provender...we have actually heard £3 mentioned as the daily cost to one large owner of stock. The cold dry winds too have had their effect upon the poor beasts, many being carried off by disease...a case of this kind has proved a sad calamity to a poor industrious man at Carnforth...[he] has lost his cow for which only a month ago he gave £8, and he has a wife and seven children...the reader can imagine how heavily such a loss must be felt.

The 1831 winter was hard. This is from February 5th.

...the fall of snow in the north has been unusually heavy ... the roads being impassible...the North and South mails, which arrive in this town [Lancaster] daily, have also been impeded in their progress, as have also the stage coaches.

It was not only the weather which affected travel. A section of the main turnpike road in Yealand was particularly prone to flooding. This appeared on February 15th, 1834.

On Tuesday night last, as a servant of Mr Cowburn of Newby Bridge, was returning in a gig from Warton, upon the Ulverston and Carnforth turnpike road, instead of turning out of the road at Homer Tarn, into the road leading into Yealand Conyers...upon which the daily coaches pass, pursued his course along that part of the turnpike which has for some time been rendered impassable through the

overflowing of Homer Tarn. The driver after discovering his error, attempted to turn the horse round, when it unfortunately got off the road and was almost immediately drowned, whilst the man remained in the high gig and was not rescued from his perilous situation for a considerable length of time. It is difficult to account for ...the road which is covered has been railed off at each end to prevent accidents...a meeting of the Trustees of this road was held at Milnthorpe...a resolution was made to raise that part of the road.

Another turnpike was proposed in March 1837.

It is proposed to form a new line of road to Silverdale and over the Sands. It will be a diversion on the west side of the present road to commence at the 5<sup>th</sup> milepost near Bolton on the road between Lancaster and Burton, and will pass in a direct and level line to Leighton Moss, crossing the river Keer at a place called Galley Hall. To avoid the cost of application to Parliament, agreements have been entered into with proprietors of lands. When complete, the road is to be vested in the proprietors, and a toll gate is to be fixed. The principal outlay will be the bridge over the river Keer...Capital £2500 in shares of £25 each...an excellent investment.

The work was put in hand straight away: by June 1837 they were ready to build the toll house:- To be let by tender, the building of a Toll House on the road from Lancaster to Silverdale ... [but]...the letting of the bridge over the Keer is unavoidably postponed.

As we know, the planned road over the Sands never left the drawing board.

There were, however, regular crossings:- Charles Kelsall respectfully informs the public that a strong built covered car, driven by

two horses, carrying passengers and parcels, driven by Stephen Benson...will continue to run Over Sands on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from the Bear and Staff Lancaster to Ulverston...time of starting regulated by the tides; the distance 24 miles performed in 3½ hours. (November 1st, 1834)

During 1835, sections of the Keer were modified, presumably in an attempt to reduce flooding. The work was "let by tick" from Capernwray Hall. In April the "cutting of a new course for the river Keer about 150 yards in length, and the raising and puddling of an embankment with the earth" was advertised. In May came the "building of a rustic stone bridge 14 ft wide and 24 ft span. Also the forming and stoning of part of the new carriage road, and the deepening and widening of the Keer.

Trade on the new canal was booming: In May for example:-

The inhabitants of the several Townships bordering on the Canal...are respectfully informed that, in consequence of the Transit of Road Material to the Township of Bulk, a more favourable opportunity will be offered, for several weeks, of conveyance of heavy carriage as stone, manure, timber etc, northwards, than generally exists...on very reasonable terms.

In 1833, traders and passengers were offered shorter journey times on the new iron steam boats:-

The means of affording celerity in travelling is every day becoming more an object of emulation. Steam-boats, in this respect, have an indisputable claim to powerful advantages ...no mode of travelling hitherto instituted is more justly entitled to preference than the iron swift canal passage boat...at the rate of 10 miles per hour...yesterday, a beautiful sheet iron gig of an improved construction



*was shipped on board the John o' Gaunt steamer for Lancaster; she is intended to ply between Preston and Kendal...she is fitted up with cabins spacious enough to accomodate 80 persons...she has been inspected by many nautical and scientific gentlemen who pronounce her beautifully modelled...*

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday a "swift packet boat" from Preston was timetabled to meet the "new packet, the Water Witch" which plied the Lancaster-Kendal stretch of the canal, until in July 1833 the Water Witch began to do the whole journey to Preston, leaving Kendal at 6am, arriving in Lancaster at 9.30, and "from there she proceeded full of passengers, at a beautiful rate, towards Preston, and performed the distance remarkably well." In March 1834, a second "iron gig boat" was launched from the Lancaster Canal Company's yard... "she is called the 'Swiftsure' and is intended for a quick passage boat between Kendal and Preston. Some improvements have made the cabins very comfortable..."

Apart from farming, the main economic activities of the 1830s were weaving, quarrying, timber trades and brewing. Cotton and linen weaving had long been important in the local villages, but by the 1830s there was a general trend towards mass production in factories. Whole families moved from their rural workshops to meet the demand and to find employment in the mills. This is from the Lancaster Gazette off April 4th.

*At a sale in this town a few days ago, lace frames that cost 10 years ago more than £300 each, sold at £3 - £4 each. This depression in the price of frames is attributed principally to the introduction of power machines, which have almost wholly superceded those on the old principle.*

Quarrying was taking place on a large scale in the Warton, Silverdale, Capernwray and Kellet

areas. In 1845 one of the large quarry owners, John Holgate, died, and his entire stock of quarrying machinery was auctioned at the Wegburgh Quarry at Capernwray over three days 18 - 20th March. The advertisement for the auction described the machinery as being enough to keep 200 men at work. It included a massive crane "which will raise 40 tons, and has machinery attached to it, by which it is made to revolve, with the stone suspended to the guy, a circular railway, 102ft in diameter". There were other massive cranes, chains, buckets, hammers, blocks, pulleys, "44 railway plates 12 ft each, with chairs (unused)," bellows, anvils and other smithy tools, three work horses, carts, and "stonework requisite for the entrance of a gentleman's park...two square and two circular columns, handsomely fluted, with pedestals, tops and caps of very superior workmanship." The quarry was by the canal, which as well as allowing access to the docks at Glasson, "affords the facility of moving the machinery at moderate expense."

An advertisement for the auction of mining machinery at the mines at Warton Crag in September 1840, through its detailing of the items to be sold, gives a similarly vivid picture of the scale of operations. There was a cylinder condensing engine, cast iron pipes for 3 shafts, two "horse whims", and 20 tons of red paint, red lead being the main product of the mines.

Timber and woodworking industries were other important economic activities. Areas of woodland frequently came up for sale by auction to local timber merchants or wood-turners and other craftsmen. For instance, this appeared on November 14th, 1840:-

*To be sold by auction, Wood, at Mr Joe Westron's, the Red Lion, Warton, a large quantity of wood growing in part of plantations of Hyning, containing 55 statute acres of maiden oak, ash, elm, sycamore, birch, etc, of about 23 years' growth, suitable*

for bobbin and chair makers, hoopers and wheelwrights. Marked with red paint.

Well managed woodlands were a valuable asset, and thefts of timber were taken seriously. In August 1834, there was an important court case, "an action to recover damages for an illegal entry into the premises of the plaintiff, and for cutting down and carrying away five oak trees and five ash trees...from the Scout Wood, in Warton". The defendant, Fryer, a Warton carpenter, did not deny taking the timber, but said "he was justified by immemorial right and custom, under which the inhabitants of the township of Warton had the right of cutting wood for various purposes in the said wood." The present owner, Wilson, denied that this right existed, and the case revolved around whether the wood was common or not. Among the witnesses called was Thomas Walling, 86, who had lived nearly all his life in Warton. He had regularly collected wood for spelkes (thatch pegs), peasticks, mending carts, or anything else he wanted, and had once cut down a tree to make a stool. Under cross-examination it transpired that he had collected fallen timber, except for the one tree for the stool, but had climbed over a wall to get it and hoist it into a cart, all at a time when the previous owner lived in Lancaster. Mr Wilson lived only half a mile away. Similar stories were emerged from other Warton residents. It was argued by the prosecution that such evidence proved only "a custom of stealing wood", and Wilson was awarded £5 costs. After a whole morning's hearing, the judge commented that there was not a wood in the country, within half a mile of a village, that could not produce the same sort of evidence. The newspaper then added this:- "by this verdict the whole of the pretended custom of cutting either trees or underwood, is negatived and set aside, as contrary to the law."

Another important trade centred on the village malt kilns. In October 1830, "a new and very substantially built malt kiln, drying kiln and

granary" in Back Lane, Warton, was advertised for sale by auction. A Mr Carruthers of Lancaster bought it, and then in November, the same kilns were advertised as "To be let by ticket and entered on immediately, at the Red Lion, Warton." It changed hands several times thereafter. Similar advertisements appeared for the kilns at Borwick, and, in October 1835, for the one at Cinderbarow:-

...a newly erected malt kiln, upon the bank of the canal, capable of sleeping 36 windles of malt every four days."

This first part of our survey of the 1830s as seen through the newspapers of the time has shown us something of the economic life of the area. In part two we shall take a closer look at the lives of the village people.

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TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON: Did that include marriage in the Seventeenth Century?

John Findlater

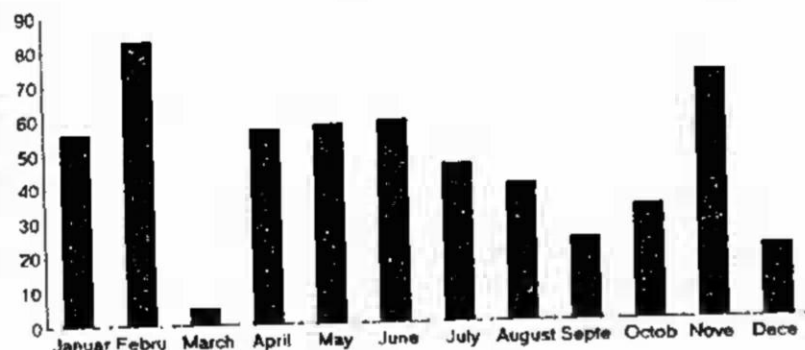
Analysis of the Warton Parish Registers for the seventeenth century does show a monthly variation in the number of marriages.

It has been claimed by many researchers that the reason for this variation lay in the ecclesiastical "prohibited periods" set by the church. In fact, though the church discouraged rather than prohibited marriages at these times, the effect might be expected to be great, so powerful was its influence in those days. Perhaps the proverb "marry in Lent, live to repent" is a carry-over.

Without going far into the intricacies of church festivals one can equate the three periods with the ten weeks in spring between Septuagesima Sunday<sup>(a)</sup> and Low Sunday<sup>(b)</sup>; the three weeks in

Figure 1.

Warton Monthly Marriages  
1601 to 1700



early summer between Rogation Sunday<sup>(c)</sup> and Trinity Sunday<sup>(d)</sup> and the seven weeks in winter between Advent<sup>(e)</sup> and Hilary.<sup>(f)</sup>

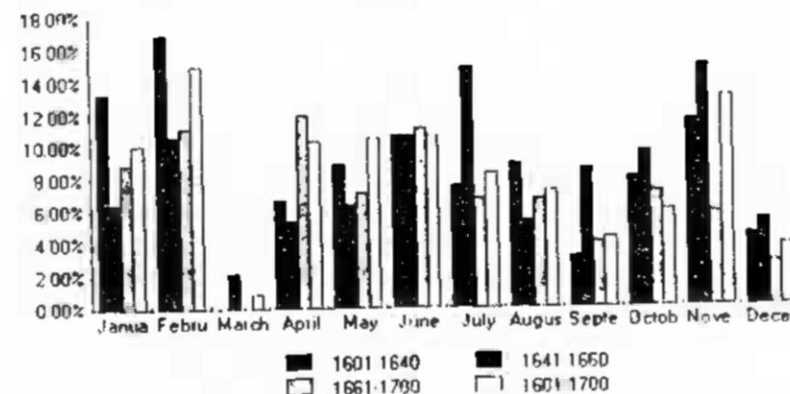
From the graph (Fig.1) it can be seen that over the whole century the March marriage figure is very low, and December the next lowest; the greater numbers in November might be explained as an attempt to get the marriage over before Advent, and the greater number in January/February to catch the window between Hilary and Septuagesima. However May's figure, despite the two weeks prohibited period, is about average. Interpretation is very difficult because of the way some of these festivals move about<sup>(g)</sup>, but the match of low marriage figures and the whole of each "prohibited period" is not at all convincing.

It has been said that the ecclesiastical influence was of different intensity through the century. To achieve a more meaningful comparison the monthly variation in marriage has been shown in

Figure 2. as a percentage of the yearly total for the whole century for the period before the civil war (1601-1640), the period of the civil war and the protectorate (1641-1660) and the restoration period (1661-1700).<sup>\*</sup> This gives the data in Figure 1 in a different way.

From Figure 2 it does appear that marriages were commoner in March (a prohibited period) over the interregnum (1641-1660) than in the periods before and afterwards. By contrast marriages were much less common in May (another supposedly prohibited period) during the interregnum, and there was then a bursting of the dam in July. In December the differences were It would be foolish to read too much into these small variations.

Figure 2.  
Marriage Seasonality in Warton



<sup>\*</sup> The figures for the decade 1641-1650 (civil war) and 1651-1660 (the Commonwealth) were not strikingly different from each other, but the numbers involved are small, the decadal totals less than 60. For that reason it seemed better to aggregate the two decades to create the three groups of Figure 2 and put them alongside the figures for the whole century.



Ann Kussmaul, who has done painstaking and exhaustive work on this facet of Parish Register demography, accepted that marriage avoidance obtained in Advent and Lent<sup>(1)</sup> in the period before 1640, but was less evident in the interregnum, after which the tradition returned<sup>(2)</sup>, as is perhaps shown above. However, Kussmaul has interrogated the parish registers in a unique manner, using the assumption that, in rural England in earlier times, people married when they were not too busy with work. She postulated that there were three main patterns of work across English parishes - arable farming, pastoral farming and pastoral farming with rural industry. The idea was that the seasonality of marriages would reflect the seasonality of work (male primarily). In arable areas autumn-and-late-winter marrying after the harvest predominates, in pastoral areas spring-marrying (April, May, June) after lambing and calving. Where there was much rural industry seasonal peaks and troughs of marriages were less evident. Interestingly, remarriages were non-seasonal<sup>(3)</sup>.

She, from her findings, mapped England into areas; A(arable), P(pastoral) and X(rural industrial). For the period 1561-1640, Kussmaul labels the Warton area X<sup>(4)</sup>; an area where the marriage pattern is non-seasonal and indicative of rural industries. From 1661-1740 the area is labelled P<sup>(4)</sup>; an area where April, May, June marriages predominate, indicative of an open pastoral agronomy.

Certainly, to judge from investigation of wills and inventories, a certain amount of weaving went on in this area, but this hardly put Warton in the X category. The seasonality of marriages all through the seventeenth century in Warton parish suggests a mixed type of agriculture as the predominant economy. This fits with Warton Parish being classified as an arable vale area by Joan Thirsk. In such an area "Settlement was based on village

communities with land farmed in common fields. A mixed corn-grass system was the result, in which cattle and sheep were used to fertilise the fields, and the farmer's income derived from both grain and animal sales<sup>(5)</sup>.

The marriage pattern over the whole century is suggestive of mixed farming, perhaps affected to some extent by observance by observance of the Advent and Lent "prohibited periods". However, in the period 1661 - 1700 the April/May/June marriages predominated more definitely over October, November, December marriages than in the 1601 - 1640 period. It is as if, though still a mixed farming area, pastoral activities were to the fore. This change is explicable in the light of known economic and political change. In the first half of the century grain prices rose as the population increased, and so pasture was ploughed up. "After 1650 grain prices fell remorselessly...meat, dairy produce, fruit, vegetables...became more profitable than grain or wool."<sup>(6)</sup>

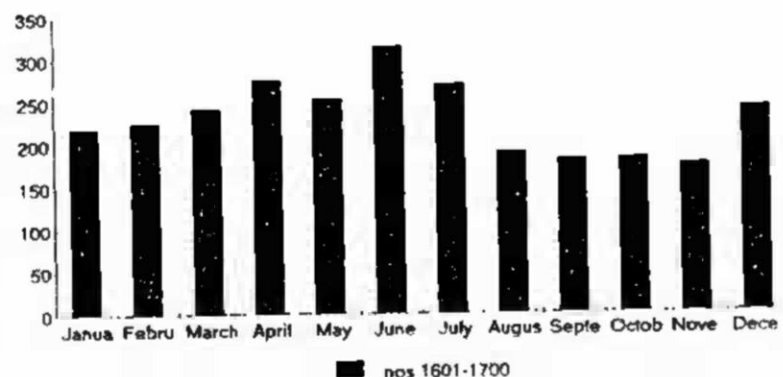
All in all, the rhythm of marriage was probably more sensitive to the economic pressures than to the religious.

By way of a postscript, the monthly variation in conceptions is recorded below in Figure 3. There is an old Scottish proverb:

*He is a fool that marries at Yule  
For when the corn's to shear, the bairn's to bear.*

In fact there does not seem to be any relationship between the monthly variation in marriages and conceptions. Couples may have been too busy to marry in March and December, but not too busy to procreate. The most popular month for conception was June; there were more in the first half of the year than the second.

Figure 3.  
Monthly Conceptions in Warton 1601 - 1700\*



\* Conceptions are taken to have occurred nine months before baptisms recorded in the registers

#### NOTES

- Septuagesima Sunday, the third Sunday before Lent, (the 40 days preceding Easter)
- Low Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter.
- Rogation Sunday, the Sunday before Ascension Day i.e. the 5th Sunday after Easter.
- Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Whit Sunday i.e. the 8th Sunday after Easter.
- Advent, the four weeks preceding Christmas.
- Hilary, January 13th
- The spring and summer prohibited periods are fixed in relation to Easter Sunday, which is the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox and may fall anywhere between March 22nd and April 25th.

- Ann Kussmaul, *A General View of the Rural Economy of England 1538-1840*, 1990, p.36.
- ibid*, p.39.
- ibid*, p.42.
- ibid*, p.82
- Joan Thirsk, *England's Agricultural Regions and Agrarian History 1500-1750*, 1987, p.41.
- ibid*, p.9.

## HELEN AT CHRISTMAS

Robin Greaves

Over several issues of this magazine we have been printing extracts from the diary of Helen Escolme of Holmere Farm in Yealand Conyers wrote in the years just before the First World War. Here is Helen's account of her last peace-time Christmas.

December began with Helen being ill with quinsys. For several days she stayed at home, fortified by two evening visits from Herbert. By December 8th she was well again, and drove her father to the "Fat Show" at Carnforth. On December 12th she and Herbert walked to Carnforth to the pictures, "they excellent" and then they walked home. December 15th was an important day.

All day in excitement, Concert tonight. Got short letter from H, he not coming, got all top teeth out. 7pm up at school, splendid audience, & lovely choir. I on second (as usual) with "Till the Sands of the Desert Grow Cold", lovely song. I nervous, trembled dreadfully, but got good applause. No encors, by request, long programme. Mrs Burchall Chairman, jolly good too. Joey sang two songs, & Lawrence & Tom Procter good with comic songs, he dressed in white shirt, red scarf & slop hat, such a picture. I made splendid "debut" with last song, "The Beautiful Land of Nod", round of applause. I dressed in blue embroidered skirt, high waisted, with insertion blouse over blue silk, looks swanky. Mother at concert. I got heaps of congrats & handshakes. 10.20 home, best concert Choral has ever given, tired.

#### December 20th

From 8am till 8pm pulling geese. Arthur, Jack & I, plucking till dinner time, then I cleaned. Got through 9, 3 to draw on Monday, dozen plucked, very tired tonight. Mother helped clean kitchen up.

## December 22nd

Busy all day at geese, ducks & chickens, 12 geese & 2 ducks, morning from 7am till 11am, then got through others by 8.30pm. I tired out, got washed & had good rest, did few cards.

## December 23rd

Skewering up fowls all morning. 11am A & I went in trap delivering them Carnforth, did shopping, sent goose Leeds. Home by Linden Hall with goose. Got some holly, home 2.30pm. Busy cleaning till practice time 7.30.

## December 24th

Xmas Eve, busy cleaning. R & I got evergreens from Holmere Hall. I not going carroling, going meet H instead, ...H & I had lovely night, hear Yealand Choral singing. H left 10.15, coming tomorrow.

## December 25th

Xmas Day & wet weather, awful morning. I cycled church, good congregation, poor choir, sang "Let Us Now Even to Bethlehem" as anthem. Mrs Briggs at church, home 12.00. H came 12.30, R met him, he stayed dinner. 2.30 both walked C'barrow, H went footballing...H & I stayed to tea, Wilf horrid as usual...Fred, Wilf, Loise & I played cards, H seemed vexed, 7.30 left. Yes, H is vexed, didn't speak much going home, cut me up as usual. I got headache & toothache, H of course wouldn't come in, he said I was too free with folks, oh Bother, but I'm not. Wilf had said horrid things to him before tea, so that had upset him. He however stayed till 10.15 & we made up. Bad finish to another Xmas Day.

## December 27th

H came for tea, both went Pictures first house, did shopping....lovely walk home, I tired. H a

treat, he stayed supper & weekend, had lovely talk just to ourselves when they went to bed.

## December 31st

Last day in old year, Holmere frozen. 6pm off on bike - white frock on - to Priest Hutton, Aunt A's party, about 40 there. Lovely supper & Whist Drive. I had glorious time & won first prize, lovely hat pins, then songs on gramophone & games, deal of kissing. Annie Cox getting married fortnight today, she at Gibson house with us. 3.30 left after singing Auld L S at midnight, James E & Ted E bringing in New Year with coal & hearing bells, buzzers, guns & whistles. Biked home alone, John E Butler let New Year in at home with coal.

## January 1st

Got up at 8.30, John E Butler came to invite us to party that night. I went to C'barrow for eggs. H was to come tonight so I waited. Lit S-room fire, going to be home till 10pm, then to Old Hall. I waited till 8.30, H never came, I very disappointed...I went Old Hall, had lovely supper, then Whist Drive, & I won 2nd, what luck. Had games till 3.30am, then home with Dad & Alice. I didn't enjoy party much, thinking of H & tired.

## January 4th

Got ready, went to Mr Howarth's funeral, 12.30, church packed, very sad, choir sang well. I cycled after carriage to Warton. ...8.30 H really came, I had fire in S-room, been waiting for him since 7.30. We came in about 9pm. He had had accident, fell off bike Tuesday night, roads slippery, & thought I'd be skating on Thursday. Been thinking bad of me, silly fellow. He stayed till 11pm, had good talk, staying C'barrow.

## NOTES AND QUERIES

## FOOTERAN LANE in Yealand Conyers

The origin of this name has been discussed in previous issues of the magazine. Mr Quinn, the headmaster of Yealand School, may have solved the problem for us. He has pointed out that Mr J. Rawlinson Ford, in his undated manuscript article "*About the Yealands*",\* refers to the pool behind Yealand School as Foul Tarn. Footeran seems a very possible corruption of this, especially as there is an intermediate form known. On the Deed of Conveyance of Yealand District School, 1840 the meadow just to the north of the school is called "Footern". Mr Rawlinson Ford gives no explanation of Foul Tarn; apparently that was simply the name it was known by when he wrote i.e. sometime before his death in the early 1930s. Presumably it means exactly what it seems to, a foul or dirty pool. There is, for instance, a Foulseyke (an affluent of the Eden) which is accepted as a 'dirty stream' (A.H. Smith, *The Place-names of Westmorland*, Part 1, 1967), from the Old English word *ful*, 'dirty'. Foul Tarn could certainly create dirty conditions. Mr Ford mentions "*an old inhabitant*" who remembered when the whole way past the school was so "*wet and founderous*" that people sometimes had to leave it and take to the fields to get round. It is worth considering also that Foul Tarn lies next to fields labelled Hemplands. Hemp had to be 'retted' (soaked) in water before it could be used for weaving. This was a notoriously stinking process, so that the pool would have been very foul when hemp was still processed in Yealand.

Incidentally the pool may soon be much less *ful* since the children of Yealand School have been carrying out a project to clean it up.

\*Lancaster Reference Library D5635 PT8443