

Archive

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The
Mourholme
Magazine
of Local History

2002-2003, No.1



*Mourholme Local History Society (Charity Reg. No. 512765)
covers the Old Parish of Warton containing the Townships of
Warton-with-Lindeth, Silverdale, Borwick, Priest Hutton,
Carnforth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne.*

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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-with-Lindeth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne.

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

Yearly subscriptions £7.00 (£13.00 family or school membership) includes evening lectures, copies of the Mourholme Magazine and access to the Society's archival material.

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

Contributions to the magazine - articles, letters, notes - are invited. Please send them to the editor, Dr. John Findlater, 13 Lindeth Rd., Silverdale, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 0TT

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WHERE DID THE MALES FROM THE PARISH GO?
A study of the migration of males born in the townships of the parish of Warton as shown in the 1881 census

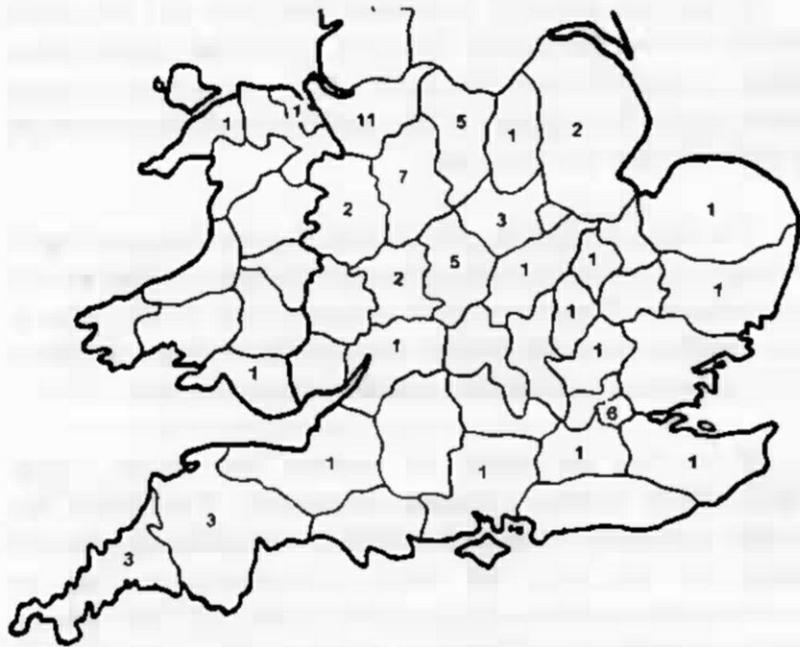
N.T.Stobbs

It has been generally postulated that there was not much movement of residents outside their own immediate area in earlier centuries. In searching the data in the 1881 census there is some evidence that by the eighties of the nineteenth century movement away from the area was occurring.

The place of birth is part of every census entry, making it easy to see who was born in the area and who had migrated into it. Computerisation of census records means that for certain years it is now feasible to check records nationwide to find out where individuals born in a parish had moved to at a certain date.

If we take the search for persons born in the parish (Borwick, Priest Hutton, Carnforth, Silverdale, Warton and the Yealands) and found in areas other than the immediately adjacent counties, we find that one went to Bedfordshire, one to Caernarvonshire, in fact to a place called Llanbebig. Eleven went to various locations in Cheshire, three to Cornwall, five to Derbyshire, three to Devon, three were found in Leicestershire, two in Lincolnshire, in one location. The appearance of a number of males in one location often indicates a family settled there. Six appear in London, two in Shropshire again possibly a family connection. Seven are in Staffordshire, five in Warwickshire and two in Worcestershire.

Other single registrations occurred in many places: Flint, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Kent, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Suffolk, and Surrey. No residents of the "Parish" were found in Highland Scotland, Lowland Scotland, and the various islands in the Census.



The number of males born in Warton parish who were living in counties south of Lancashire and Yorkshire at the time of the 1881 census

Of the males found in the search, two were born in Borwick, twenty two in Carnforth, five in Silverdale, nineteen in Warton and the remaining four in the Yealands.

When we consider the distribution of males in Lancashire and the adjacent counties, such as Yorkshire, and the Northern Counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland, we find considerably greater numbers. There were a large number of males who were born in the parish who did not move from their birth township, or only moved to another township in the parish.

Obviously the greatest number would appear to have stayed in Lancashire. (see table)

EMIGRATION OF MALES FROM TOWNSHIPS OF THEIR BIRTH IN WARTON PARISH TO OTHER TOWNSHIPS WITHIN THE PARISH OR TO OTHER PARTS OF LANCASHIRE
(From the 1881 census)

Township	No. still living there	No. moved to t'ship within Warton parish	No. moved elsewhere in Lancs.	Total who moved & %
Borwick	41	16	51	67 62%
Priest Hutton	19	5	21	26 57%
Yealand	52			32 38%
Silverdale	118	32	69	101 46%
Carnforth	107			79 42%
Warton	125			139 52%

Out of those who were born in Borwick, and are found in Lancashire, forty one were still resident in Borwick, eleven in

Priest Hutton, five in Carnforth, seven in Over Kellett, four in Burton, two each in Bolton-le-Sands, Dalton-in-Kendal, Glasbory and Preston. These may well have been family members. Single males were found in thirty two other locations within the county. None were found in Warton, Silverdale, or the Yealands.

Of those born in Priest Hutton nineteen remained in the township, three went to Carnforth, and two to Yealand Redmayne, Bentham, Casterton and Newby. The others appeared in fifteen other locations in the county.

There is some difficulty in placing the males of the Yealands as the enumerators seemed to decide that Yealand alone was good enough for the birthplace of both the residents of Yealand Conyers and Redmayne, but when entering where they were at the time of the census they were either in Yealand Conyers or Yealand Redmayne. Of the males born in the two villages twenty five remained in Conyers and twenty seven in Redmayne, five migrated to Lancaster, and five to Thurnham, two to Whittington. The rest migrated to twenty different places as single entries.

Of the males registered as having been born in Silverdale, yet still resident in the county of Lancashire, one hundred and eighteen were still resident in the township on the day of the census in 1881. The greatest movement was to Warton-with-Lindeth (seventeen), eleven were in Lancaster, nine in Yealand Conyers, six in Carnforth, four each in Ulverston, Ellel, Dalton-in-Furness and Barrow-in-Furness, three were in Lower Holker. "Twos" were registered in ten other electoral districts, as far apart as West Derby, now part of Liverpool, and Nether Kellet. Single males occurred in nineteen other places,

including Upper and Lower Allithwaite, Standish-with-Langtree, Satterthwaite, Fazakerley and Ashton-with-Stodday.

The males of Carnforth show a similar pattern within Lancashire, but with a noted difference which could be connected to the Iron Trades. Eleven moved to Ulverston, and the same number to Barrow-in-Furness and ten to Dalton-in-Furness. Four to Nether Kellet, three to Salford and three to Bolton-le-Sands. Two individuals were recorded as being born in Carnforth and in various electoral districts within Lancashire.

One hundred and seven remained in the township of their birth. With twos and threes there is always a possibility that there are sons of the head of household, so it is only one family that has migrated.

Warton, which at this time had a larger male population than Carnforth, retained one hundred and twenty five individuals in the township in which they were born. Of the migrants twenty eight went to Carnforth, nineteen to Lancaster, also nineteen to Barrow. Fourteen 'single' males went to various electoral districts within Lancashire, whilst five 'twos' went to Halton, Hesketh-cum-Becconsall, Poulton Bare and Torrisholme, Skerton and Upper Holker.

The only 'three' recorded moved all the way to Yealand Redmayne. This could have been a family. It is possible to find this fact out from the census material, but it takes a considerable amount of time, as the names are entered by forename and hence families are separated in the search and you have to look through all the names in a township in an effort to find families. This

should then be checked by going back to the full entries. A very time consuming procedure. Four individuals moved to Dalton-in-Furness and Ellel. Of the remaining thirty eight listed as being born in Carnforth, 'fives' moved to Bolton-le-Sands and Silverdale 'six' to Yealand Conyers and 'sevens' to Over Kellet and Ulverston, whilst eight moved to Priest Hutton.

In considering migration to Yorkshire, it has been possible using another method of search to see if the movement consisted of families or individuals. Considering the men born in Borwick and moved to Yorkshire, of the five individuals recorded none of them appear to be related. Of the five, two went to Benthams, and one each to Headingley-cum-Burley, Manningham, and Mirfield. On looking at those who moved to Manningham for example, it is possible to see that there are five families that have moved there, one from Borwick, two from Carnforth and one from Warton and Yealand. Nowhere in the Yorkshire search were there more than two individuals moving to any one place from one township.

In the case of Bradford the two individuals moving to any one place were recorded as sons, Francis Beardall, born 1873 in Carnforth, and Tom French, born 1870 again in Carnforth. This also indicates that their fathers were not born in Carnforth. It is possible to find the family in the Bradford records and hence discover where the father was born. Such a search could also trace the migration of the family around the area, county or country. This is possible by looking at the birthplaces of the children in the family. Again a time consuming operation, but one that could be an interesting study.

There were three families that moved to Halifax, one from Silverdale, one from Warton and one from Yealand Conyers.

It seems that there was less migration west to east compared with north and south. Was this an indication of the traditional antagonism between Lancashire and Yorkshire? Another point that could be explored, or was it only to do with the availability of jobs in certain trades in the areas? It could be that some movement could have been railway related along the line through to Leeds. Again a point that would need more careful exploration of the original data.

The movement to the four northern counties (Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland) on a cursory inspection, seems to have been more related to agricultural and rural employment than in the cases of Lancashire and Yorkshire. All the movements from Borwick appear to be movements to other small villages. Even from Carnforth the majority of movements were to rural areas. Three families did move to Bishop Auckland in Durham, seven moved to Kendal and five to Millom. All the moves from Priest Hutton were to rural areas.

The greatest migration from Silverdale was to Beetham, possibly to work at the Paper Mill, but without further research this can only be surmise.

There was a larger migration from Warton; ten individuals moved. Whether these were ten families or a number of families with sons, is not clear without more research. Nine Warton individuals moved to Holme and seven to Kendal. In total Warton

individuals found their way to sixteen different places in the Northern Counties. Beetham was the greatest recipient of males from the Yealands, Kendal received three as did Holme. There was a mill at Holme, and of course Kendal would offer work for men in the various trades that existed in the town.

This is a very superficial investigation into the movement of males from the 'Parish' to various parts of Great Britain. Movement does seem to have been occurring, due, possibly to a search for jobs. Connections to the iron trades does appear, as could movement within the railway industry, but the latter is not clear.

Again the census does give one a source of research projects, but it does raise as many questions as it answers.

ORAL HISTORY

John Findlater

The Lancaster Guardian of 19 April 2002 carried the obituary of William Leslie Rigg, retired master builder. Leslie was the first person with whom I did a tape-recorded interview: this was on 30.1.95 at his home, 3 Slyne Rd., Bolton-le-Sands. The following is not a verbatim transcript but a summary of my interview:

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM LESLIE RIGG (30.1.95 at Bolton-le-Sands)

Leslie was born 16.3.1915, at 1 Oxford St., Carnforth, the eldest son of Robert Taylor Rigg, always known as 'Taylor' Rigg, who hated having the name of a film star -Robert Taylor. Taylor Rigg was in business as a builder with his brother John Rigg, whose son, William Arthur Rigg became an architect. William Arthur, married Mary Dugdale from Thwaite Gate: he was just beginning to make a name for himself as an architect when he was killed at the end of World War One. He designed Bleasdale House (1911) for Teddy Sharp's mother and the Lake House, Linden Hall, Borwick.

Leslie went to Carnforth Council School and obtained a scholarship to Morecambe Grammar School at 11, attending there until the age of 16 when he joined his father's building firm, at their works in Oxford Street, "starting at the bottom"; at first he was a joiner's apprentice for four years and then worked bricklaying. He did not experience any hassle from the 20-30 men he worked alongside, not always the case with the boss's son. He

was joined in the workforce by his brothers, Dennis and Norman. Leslie had an ambition to be an architect, like William Arthur Rigg. To that end he went to night school at the Storey Institute in Lancaster, cycling there three times a week. He passed the National Certificate and City and Guilds.

The firm did a great deal of contracting work and built to order on plots of land they bought but they eschewed 'spec building'. They built 14 or 15 houses in Bloomfield Park, the price for a house there in 1935 was £900. They built in upper and lower North Road, in Yealand and Silverdale. As well as houses they erected a lot of farm buildings. The firm kept a huge store of timber which was carefully seasoned over many months; much of it was used for making doors and windows.

The business had been started in Victoria St, Carnforth by Leslie's great-grandfather, John Rigg, who came, originally from Low Longmire, Troutbeck. As a lad John had run off to Barrow to work as a bricklayer. He then went to Liverpool and joined the police. He was mugged and left the police to come to Carnforth, where he worked on the ironworks chimney, borrowing £200 from John Hartley, brother of grocer Hartley of Carnforth who quarried stone from Kellet Seeds for building. There was a rumour that one of the Barton girls was a girl friend.

The firm had prospered as Carnforth developed. In his grandfather's time Riggs built in Hill St., Hewthwaite Terrace, Kellet Rd, Royal Station Hotel, and Bleasdale House, Silverdale. He would build a row of houses and keep back a few to let after selling the rest. He died a wealthy man owning 24 houses. The firm went into the undertaking business. Grandfather was a

choirmaster, grandmother was an organist and his father was a choirmaster.

It was the policy of the firm, certainly by Taylor Rigg's time, to have all trades represented who could work as teams, the last to be added being electricians. Work came to them from all over; there was no need to drum it up, until the depression. Then it was necessary to engage in all sorts of ploys; making wheelbarrows, coffins, gates, re-roofing their own buildings and woodsheds. By this means it was possible to keep most of the workers on, though sometimes on short time. Relations with the planners, both rural and urban district council were good.

A firm called Ramsay leased land and premises from Rigg's holding at the end of Oxford St. and this was taken over by Morphy's Blouse Factory at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Leslie, his brothers and sister Dorothy were brought up in a very strict Wesleyan household. They were not allowed to go to the cinema and the weekly routine was focused on the chapel and Band of Hope activities. By the time he was 10 or 11 years old Leslie was finding it too much and at 14 rebelled altogether.

The second world war was very disruptive. He was called up in 1941, serving in the RAF but admits he had an easy time. Brother Dennis, on the other hand, who volunteered for the RAF gave distinguished service as a Spitfire pilot and later instructor and later still flew Mustangs: he was in the thick of the action, with 'kills' to his credit and mentioned in despatches. Dennis was a member of the Caterpillar Club*. Norman served in the RAF in

Burma. The firm at one stage in the war was down to 10 men with a shortage of work; they built some air-raid shelters. For example, they shored up the cellars of the Station Hotel and the Carnforth Inn, using a great deal of timber on behalf of the UDC on instruction of the Home Office. According to Leslie there was some sort of agreement with the surveyor whereby timber would come back to Riggs afterwards but some shady goings-on saw it go elsewhere.

Leslie was interested and took part in sports: he was secretary of the cricket club and amongst his cricketing friends in Carnforth were the Capstick brothers whom he considered brilliant, the Jolly brothers and Dr. Pat Byrne, who was a wild fast bowler. He was connected with Holme Wanderers Rugby Club. But above all he was keen on sports cars, following motor sports and was a Morecambe Car Club member for sixteen years (1952-1968), ultimately President, taking part in rallies which he also did with the Kirkby Lonsdale and Westmorland Car Club.

Leslie remembers 'old' Dr Jackson, who, in the twenties was the only other local person to have a car (an Essex American) apart from Leslie's grandfather. Dr. Edward (Jackson- the 'old' doctor's son) who lived at Carnforth Lodge, was a very friendly and popular man, a friend of Leslie's father. As local worthies he spoke of Joe Pomfret who had a milk round, then married a well-off woman from Netherbeck, moved to the Lodge after Dr Edward left for Robin Hill and Joe became a hairdresser, his shop being in Station Buildings. There were others like Joe Briggs the chemist, 'butcher' Williams and Edwin Dockray.

* Membership of the Caterpillar Club was automatically given to those who had saved their lives by the emergency use of a parachute, which Dennis had done on September 17, 1941.

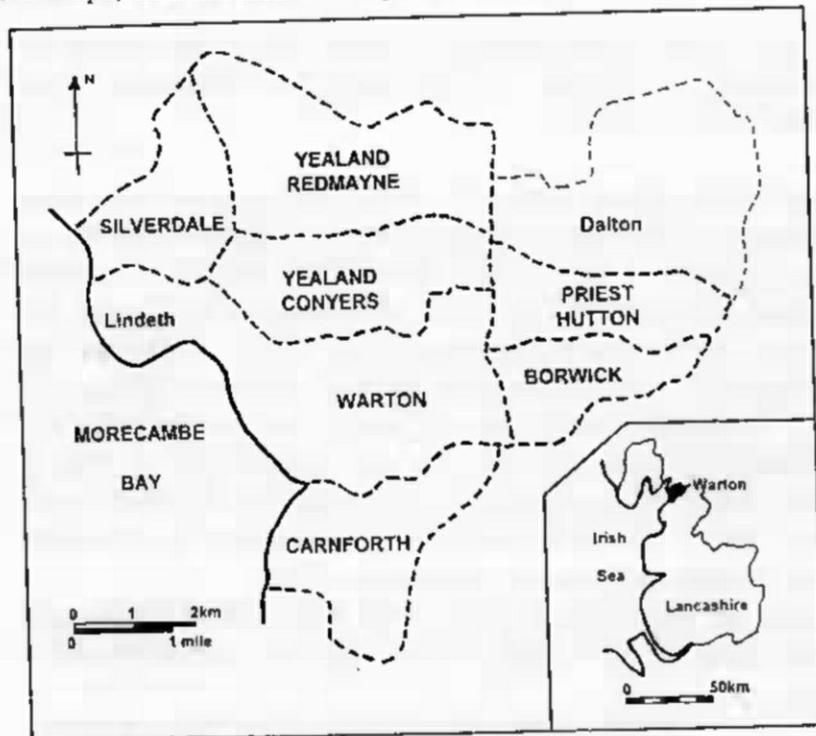
The deficiencies in this interview are made even more obvious by the necessity of having to supplement the information, after reading Leslie's obituary!

Though Leslie did not speak of it, he had been very active in local government affairs - as the obituary sets out: a parish councillor in Bolton-le-Sands in the fifties, a rural district councillor in 1961 becoming Chairman in 1967, then on Lancaster City Council for 13 years, deputy mayor, chairman of the leisure committee and member of the finance committee. He represented the city council on the Northwest Arts and Sports Councils and the Civic Society. He loved the theatre and music; he was chairman of the Duke's Theatre board of directors and a key figure in the Morecambe Music Festival. He was a keen singer, a member of the Lancaster Choral Society and Lancaster Male Voice Choir.

He met his wife, Marian, when both were with the Carnforth drama group in 1947. (His brother Norman married Marian's sister.)

DALTON

The ancient parish of Warton was made up of eight townships, each centred on a separate village.



Warton parish and its townships. Inset: the old county of Lancashire.

While the focal point of the whole parish was the church at Warton, the centres of day-to-day activities were the townships. Links made with churches were not always permanent, and it was known occasionally for allegiances to be broken, and for townships to transfer their connections to a neighbouring parish, usually because it was more accessible. There have been two

instances of such changes in Warton parish, one involving the addition of an extra township, and the other the loss of a township. In early medieval times Carnforth severed its connection with Bolton-le-Sands church and became part of Warton parish (a sure sign that there must have been a reliable bridge over the Keer to link Carnforth and Warton). Of more interest, however, is the transfer of Dalton township to Burton-in-Kendal parish, reputed to have taken place over three centuries ago at a time when the area was struck by plague. The transfer of Dalton from Lancashire County to Westmorland County took place relatively recently (1894). Kath Hayhurst tells us more about Dalton in the following article.

DALTON IN THE PAST (First printed in Burton News - July 1993)

Kath Hayhurst

In the 11th century Dalton is mentioned in the Cockersands Cartulary as being in the ecclesiastical parish of Burton (Westmorland), although originally it was part of Warton parish (Lancashire).

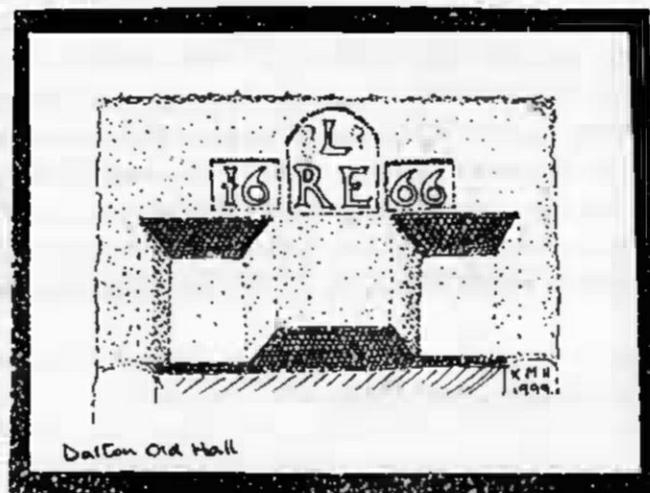
The first mention of the 'plague' story is thought to be when the vicar of Warton in 1722 answered several questions sent to all his diocese churches by the Bishop of Chester. He said "The tradition of the people of Burton and Warton is that many years ago a Pestilential Distemper broke out in Dalton, the inhabitants of Warton refused to let them bury their dead in Warton churchyard. Those of Burton granting that favour, the inhabitants

of Dalton got the hamlet annexed to Burton-in-Kendal. (P.H.W. Booth of Liverpool University says, "Don't believe it"). However this story was then copied and repeated in all the local directories and legend has it the 'plague' victims were buried in the field called "Parson's Breeches" on the right at the top of Vicarage Lane! The most likely site for the earliest settlement is the pre-medieval farm with the oval of boulders - which may have been the village pound, on the south side of Russell Farm.

In 1979 the Westmorland Gazette featured an article called "The Strange Case of the Village that Disappeared." - this referred to an old plan belonging to Dalton estate of 1690. The plan showed a thriving village with several houses drawn in, plus the stocks, the Pinfold, the Commonland, the inclosed lands, three wells and Keer Holme- also Dalton Hall the largest house (now Dalton Old Hall - a farmhouse). Mr. T. Clare, then County Archaeologist, described the site in his book 'Archaeological Sites of the Lake District', and he says perhaps the village disappeared if and when the estate was remodelled, and the tenants given new houses further north, or perhaps it was the victim of population drift to the industrial towns in the early 19th century.

Another theory is that while many labourers are needed for cultivated land, (and there is evidence of strip lynchets nearby) only one man - a shepherd - is needed to tend a flock of sheep. So as the land use changed, the village disintegrated. The houses are shown on the tithe map of 1837, but have gone by the time the first Ordnance Survey Map (1847) was published. The ruins of one house remain and it was occupied until early this century. The pump still stands beside the track and the discerning eye can pick out the foundations of the cottages, the gardens and orchards.

In the centre of the 1690 plan the end of the road leading to the village is named DICKON YATT. Dickon = a nickname for Richard Yatt, Yeat or Gate meaning Way. Richard and Elizabeth Legh built Dalton Old Hall in 1666 - the date is over the south door. They built on an old foundation which was demolished, but part of the ruins were described as being "...like a castle wall...". Richard and Elizabeth's portraits can be seen in Lyme Hall, Cheshire, also his ancestor Sir Peter Legh who built Dalton Chapel in Burton Church in 1628.



From Burton up Vicarage Lane, the road which turns south at the junction, after Russell Farm, to opposite Dalton Old Hall gateway is still known as TICKING LANE - is this a corruption of Dickon Yatt 300 years ago? The 'lost village' is an Ancient monument and people are reminded that although there are public footpaths nearby, the rest of the site is in private ownership.

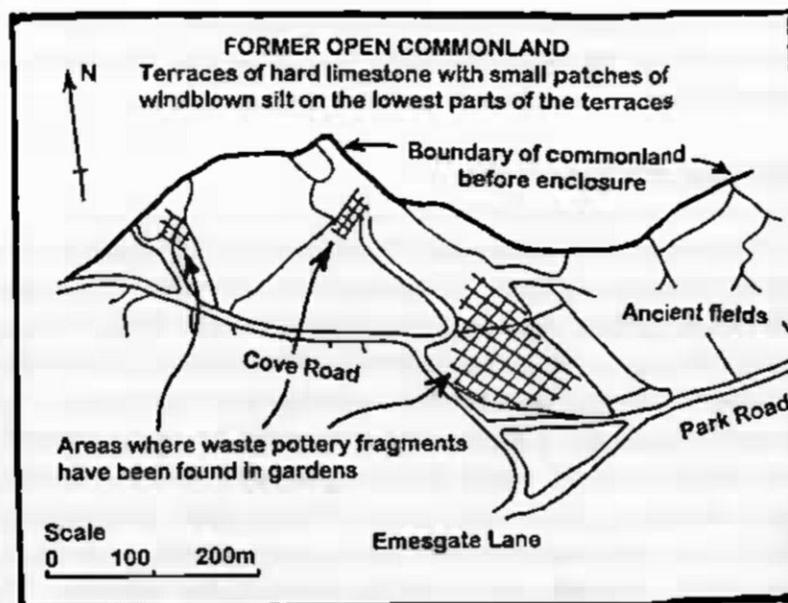
CLAY FOR THE SILVERDALE POTTERY: WERE WINDBLOWN DEPOSITS USED?

Michael Wright

The Silverdale pottery was situated on the north edge of the village, in the Elmslack area, and was probably active in the 16th and 17th centuries. It produced a limited range of large farmhouse and kitchen items, including bowls, jugs and ale-jars. Like other locally based potteries it did not try to compete with wares such as cups and dishes that were produced in large quantities by larger potteries.¹ In his description of the evidence for the pottery Andrew White has pointed out how many questions remain to be answered. Among these is the identification of the source of the clay used in the pottery. This article is written to place on record work initiated by Colin Beale who organised tests on clay found in Eaves Wood, on the hillside above the site of the pottery.

Clays in the vicinity of the pottery

Since clays are of widespread occurrence in most parts of Britain it is difficult to identify the source material for a pottery that has no remaining historical records. In Silverdale at least five sources of clay are possible candidates. These are (in order of increasing age) silty muds from the tidal flats of the estuary; silty clays in the Haweswater Moss area; windblown deposits that collected in the pockets on the limestone hills shortly after the retreat of the last glaciers; glacial deposits of boulder clay; and shales that were deposited among the limestones in the Carboniferous, 300 million years ago.



Plan showing the areas in north Silverdale where waste-debris from the pottery has been found. Kilns may have been located along the southern edge of the commonland, and pottery clay may have been dug on the common, upslope from the kilns.

No doubt the inhabitants of Silverdale were familiar with all these clays, as they sought to maximise use of the resources available to them. And it was the manorial commonlands that were most heavily explored and exploited, since manorial tenants (that is, most of the inhabitants of Silverdale) had the right to dig freely on the commons for limestone, sand, gravel and clay, so long it was for use within the township. It is no surprise that the old commonland areas, such as Eaves Wood and the Lots are heavily pockmarked with small and large-scale digging. During

such delvings and excavations the inhabitants would have become familiar with all the local varieties of glacial and post-glacial sands and clays.

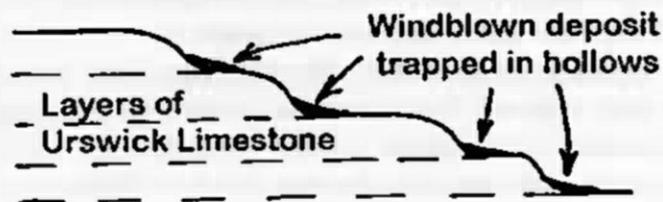
Requirements of a pottery clay

It would therefore be easy to make an informed choice of source material for a pottery. We can assume that those who ran the Silverdale pottery were very knowledgeable and experienced. Michael Eden comments that recovered fragments of Silverdale pottery show a high degree of craftsmanship and experience.² A potter would look for a plastic clay that could be easily worked but not so plastic that it would shrink a great deal, or crack during firing. A stoneless clay, ready to use without much preparation, would be preferable, and in sufficient quantity for the production envisaged. If a suitable clay could be found on the commonland then a manorial tenant would have the right to dig the material without further formality. And a source conveniently upslope of the kilns would make it relatively easy to cart or sled the clay down to the work area. We can assume a nearby source of fuel in the local woodland or hedgerow trees, though the woodland cover was probably quite limited at that date.

All these requirements can be filled by the windblown deposits that lie in the hollows and depressions on the limestone hills. This material, technically known as 'loess', was blown from the area now occupied by Morecambe Bay following the melting of the ice-sheet at the end of the last glaciation. At that time large volumes of meltwater were carried across this lowlying area in a network of meandering river channels. Sea-level was much lower and the coastline lay many miles to the west. Vegetation had not

had a chance to get established, and when drier weather prevailed, and a westerly wind blew, the smaller particles of the river-borne sediments were picked up and blown onto the adjacent hills, some of them far inland.

The windblown deposits in the Silverdale area have not been investigated in detail, but Vincent and Lee looked at similar deposits at Hutton Roof where they lie in thicknesses of up to a metre or so in depressions on the hilltop.³ The terrace-like topography of the Urswick Limestone has many sheltered depressions and hollows where the eddying silt-laden wind of 12,000 years ago would have dropped its load. Urswick Limestone is found in many places around the Bay, including the Eaves Wood ridge in Silverdale. Vincent and Lee suggested that once deposited the windblown material would be unlikely to be washed away on limestone areas because of the lack of surface water.



Section through an Urswick Limestone hillside showing the hollows where the windblown deposits have accumulated.

The mineralogy of the windblown deposit makes it eminently suitable for use as a pottery clay. In fact similar wind-blown deposits in other areas have been extensively used for pottery or to make bricks. In the London area a similar

windblown deposit is actually known as 'brickearth' because of this use. An analysis of the deposit is included in the paper by Vincent and Lee (pp287-8) and this shows that it consists of very fine quartz particles, with small particles of feldspar (which acts as a flux mineral) and clay minerals, including kaolinite (china clay). The samples tested did not contain any calcium carbonate despite the presence of limestone debris among the river-deposited material in the source area in Morecambe Bay. The lime-free nature of the windblown soils contrasts with the lime-rich soil that lies on the surrounding limestone. In fact the presence of the windblown deposits can be detected by the acid-loving plants that grow on them.

Test firing of the Windblown Deposits

On the initiative of Mr Colin Beale, samples of the windblown deposit were collected from Eaves Wood and given to Mr Michael Eden of Edencermics, Hale, near Milnthorpe, for test forming and firing. Mr Eden first had to wash out limestone particles that were contained in the clay (possibly these were contamination from adjacent limestone). He found that the clay was readily workable. Dried shapes formed from the clay were treated with a galena glaze and then fired at about 1,100 degrees Celsius, using wood as fuel and an oxidising atmosphere. The resulting pots closely resembled the old pottery pieces found in the gardens of the area of the Silverdale pottery. It was found, however, that if the limestone particles were not removed from the clay before it was shaped, the final product was spoilt by white blemishes on unglazed surfaces, or blisters in the glaze.

The conclusion reached by Colin Beale is that it seems very reasonable to suppose that the clay used to make the pots at the old pottery may have been collected from pockets on the hill now covered by Eaves Wood. It could also be conjectured that if carefully chosen from the larger deposits of windblown clay, the content of limestone particles should be very low. In fact Vincent and Lee noted that the calcite was absent from the deposits that they examined, and they speculated that it may have been leached out by weathering. At the date when Silverdale pottery was active the commonlands were heavily grazed and very few trees and shrubs would have survived. On the open ground the windblown deposits could have been readily located because they support acid-loving vegetation such as heathers and acid-loving grasses. At the present day these variations can be very clearly seen in places such as Scout Scar near Kendal, and on Farleton Fell. The loess also has the virtue of having a sharply-defined base, so that it could be easily dug out, leaving behind any patches of unsuitable stony glacial clay.

Would supplies of this Clay have been Adequate to meet the Demand?

There remains the question as to whether there would have been enough windblown clay to supply the pottery. Taking as a basis for calculation a production of 1,000 pots per year at an average of 2 kg per fired pot, Colin Beale calculates as follows. He assumes that 4 kg of clay would be needed to make a fired pot weighing 2 kg, when losses in washing, weight loss on firing, breakages and rejects are allowed for. One thousand pots would require 4,000 kg clay. Assuming an in situ bulk density of 2,000 kg per cubic metre, this means that two cubic metres of clay

would have to be found, dug and delivered each year (say 8 cart or sled loads). If the pottery operated at this production level for 200 years it would consume 400 cubic metres of clay. We know that the clay was most likely dug from shallow, elongated deposits along the hollows that lie beneath the limestone crags. Allowing for a modest depth of half a metre, and a width of 5 metres, a volume of 400 cubic metres could be supplied by digging a length of only some 160 metres of such hollows. Michael Eden suggests that the volume of production may have been considerably greater for commercial viability, though much of the waste in the form of broken unfired pots would have been recycled. Allowing for these factors, and a possibly larger requirement of clay, this could be readily met by the deposits of windblown silt held in the hollows in the Urswick Limestone.

While it is hoped that this article provides convincing evidence that the windblown deposits found on the hillside above Elmslack are a likely source of clay for the Silverdale pottery, this does not automatically eliminate the other possible sources. A practised craftsman may even have wished to blend more than one of the local clays. And if any slips were used for decoration these would require a white clay source. The lead (galena) used for glazing may have originated from the north Pennine orefield. Analyses of the mineral compositions of the other clays, and of the pottery fragments themselves would be useful, but expensive investigations such as this are not likely to be undertaken in the near future.

There is much more to learn about the Silverdale Pottery. In particular it would be good to know more about the families involved in the work, and whether they worked full time or

part-time at pot-making. The work may have been seasonal - Sonia Ely has pointed out that there would be practical difficulties in throwing and drying pots in the winter months in Silverdale. But if winter working was needed to make the operation viable there would probably have been ways to contrive this - for example, waste heat from a chimney flue could be used to warm a raised drying floor.⁴

Acknowledgements

Much of the information for this article has been provided by Colin Beale and Michael Eden, and they have also made helpful comments on an early draft.

NOTES

1. Andrew White. Silverdale Pottery: the Story so far. Mourholme Magazine of Local History, 1999-2000, No.3 pp19-25.
2. Personal communication from Michael Eden of Edencermics, Hale.
3. P.J.Vincent and M.P. Lee. Some observations on the Loess around Morecambe Bay, North-west England. Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society, v.43, pt. 3, pp281-294, 1981
4. Comment from Michael Eden.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE WHINNERAHS OF
WARTON HALL FARM, CARNFORTH 1906

N.T.Stobbs

Following on from the study of Whinnerah's Diary¹, I found that by 1906 they had an entry in Coates's Herd Book of the Shorthorn Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Shorthorn Cattle, Volume 53, Part II, New Series, Cows with Produce, to 31st December 1906, issued November 1907, (usually known as the Coates's Herd Book). Coates was one of the original breeders of the shorthorn cattle whose work helped standardise the breed in the early part of the previous century.

By the early twentieth century Shorthorn Cattle were the most frequently occurring pedigree breed of cattle in Great Britain. It was in 1906 that they divided the herd book into two parts, Bulls and Cows, as so many individuals were being submitted that it became impossible to include them in one volume.

I found the Whinnerah's entry in the 'Cows' section of the herd book. They were entered under the title of Whinnerah, E & J., Warton Hall, Carnforth, Lancashire. This would indicate that the two sons of the writer of the original diary, Edmond and James had taken over the farm from their father.

It is interesting to note that the cows listed under their entry for this year, were bred by the Ashburner family from Ulverston, R.W. of Conishead Grange and G. of Low Hall, who had two herds of shorthorns, with the herd names of Conishead

and Kirklevington. Without more research and access to earlier volumes of the herd book it would be impossible to decide if the Whinnerah brothers had been in Pedigree Shorthorns for a number of years or if they were just starting out. All the cows in their entry had been bred by other breeders, including the Ashburners, Mr. T. Thompson of Prospect House, Hest Bank, Lancaster and Mr. Barton. Mr. Barton mentioned here is probably Mr. E. Barton of Warton Grange, a close neighbour of the Whinnerahs. There are four other Bartons listed in the Herd book but they are all in Ireland, so it would seem that the Barton mentioned was the neighbour.*

It would also seem that the cows were bought in calf. The first cow mentioned is called Conishead Waterloo 14th calved in 1901. She produced a calf in April 1906 named Conishead Waterloo 17th which was also purchased by the Whinnerahs. This indicated that they are beginning to build up a pedigree bloodline to the Conishead bulls.

They also purchased other Conishead cows, some of which did not produce calves in 1906, but are mentioned as being sold to them. Conishead Wild Eyes 9th calved in 1901 was purchased as was her calf Conishead D Wild Eyes, called Conishead Wild Eyes 10th calved in 1905. Her calf in 1906 was called Warton Wild Eyes, by Conishead Duke of Waterloo 5th. The sire of Conishead Wild Eyes was Conishead Duke of Waterloo 4th. So it seems that the Whinnerahs were line breeding to the Conishead bloodlines. This is the classical method of pedigree breeding initiated by Coates, Bates and originally Bakewell.

There is an entry naming one of the cows as Kirklevington 41st. She was bred by G. Ashburner of Low Hall. It also states that two of her calves Kirklevington 42nd and 43rd were also sold to the Whinnerahs. Both calves were sired by Conishead bulls. The 43rd was sired by Conishead D Wild Eyes, mentioned above. The calf born in 1906 to Kirklevington 41st was a red bull calf, named Kimbo, by Conishead Duke of Waterloo 5th.

This raises the question did the Whinnerahs purchase the bull or did they take the cow back to Ulverston to be served? Without access to other volumes we are unlikely to know.

The brothers had also introduced a completely different bloodline from Mr. Thompson's herd at Hest Bank. The cow was called Queen Edith; she produced a bull calf called Quirinus. The cow was descended from Shakleford Hannibal from the herd of W.E.Horne of Hall Place, Shakleford, Godalming, Surrey. On looking at the breeding of some of the cows mentioned in Mr. Horne's herd there is an entry for a bull named Marquis of Kirklevington. Kirklevington was the herd name of G. Ashburner. So again there seems to be some blood line connection.

I think this shows that the Whinnerahs were taking their pedigree breeding with considerable enthusiasm, and were applying various accepted breeding principles, following the ideas of the early improvers of both cattle and sheep breeds. In the short time between the writing of the diaries and this entry in the Coates Herd Book, the cattle enterprise at Warton Hall had moved from what appeared to be a non-pedigree herd to a very committed pedigree operation. This is based on my reading of the entries in the diary where cows were more often identified by their colour,

rather than by name. Nowhere in the diaries is there any mention of the breed of cattle kept on the farm in 1892. There is obviously a lot further work that could be done if copies of the other volumes of the Coates Herd book could be accessed.

1. Mourholme Magazine 2000-2001, No 3 and 2001-2002, No. 1

* Editor's Note.

The Edward Barton mentioned must have been Edward Barton, manager of Carnforth Ironworks. When he first came to this area he lived at Warton Hall. In the 1871 census he is shown there and Warton Hall farm was occupied by Mr. Benson. The ironworks built Warton Grange for Mr. Barton and he moved there. Mr Barton was very interested in animals and won prizes at agricultural shows. It is quite likely that Barton collaborated with Whinnerah who followed Benson at Warton Hall Farm.

SUDDEN RAIL HALT: July 13, 1850
(Westmorland Gazette 14.7.2000)

(Cut out and sent by a member of the 19th C group)

A rather alarming accident, fortunately attended by no serious consequences occurred at twelve o'clock today, at the terminus of the London and North-Western Railway in Lime Street.

A cheap trip had been got up in Staffordshire and a train consisting of 20 carriages, containing 500-600 persons, started from Uttoxeter this morning for Liverpool. At each station at which the train stopped fresh contributions of passengers were supplied and it proceeded on its journey, "like a snowball gathering".

On arriving at the station at Edge Hill, the guard of the North Staffordshire Company, who had the charge of the train, received the assistance of two experienced breaksmen (?) belonging to the London and North-Western Company to conduct the train safely down the tunnel to Lime Street. As usual these men applied the breaks (!) as the train descended the tunnel, but the North Staffordshire guard being ignorant of the angle of declivity, is supposed to have neglected the same precaution.

The consequence was that the train, which was an uncommonly heavy one, emerged from the tunnel at a frightful velocity, and struck the stone wall separating the terminus from Lime street with such force that the buffers actually fractured one or two of the blocks of freestone. The passengers, of course, were

precipitated from their seats. Fortunately, no lives were lost nor bones broken.

Editor's Note.

The underlining, the ? And the ! Are mine.

During discussions about the various railway worker occupations- locomotive engine driver, platelayer, signalman and other stranger ones - we had come across 'breaksman'. Was this worker charged with the task of breaking trains and re-forming them? We decided that the truth was that it was the chap who put on the brakes; he was a 'brakesman' but his title was misspelt. This cutting of an hair-raising journey confirms this surmise.

Programme 2002-2003 (Meetings in Yealand Village Hall,
7.30 pm)

2002

September 12th - Mr. Alan Shepley. A Short History of Woodlands around Morecambe Bay..

October 10th - Mr. Geoff. Swift. Country Life and Country Characters .

November 14th - Mr. Vickers. The Sedgwick Gunpowder Industry.

December 12th - Mrs. Jean Chatterley. The Noggin of Soup. Followed by Jacob's Join.

2003

January 9th - Mr. Richard Newman. Industrial Archaeology in Arnsdale & Silverdale

February 13th - Mr. A. Lowe. Wrestlers, Crucks and Mullions. .

March 13th - Mrs. Martha Bates. The Land Army.

April 10th - AGM. Speaker to be arranged.