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The Mourholme Magazine of Local History



*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 WALLING FAMILY AT BRADSHAW HOUSE,
SILVERDALE
M L Walling

The Walling Family had connections with Bradshaw House, Silverdale for about 153 years. Various branches of the family resided in Lindeth, Warton and Silverdale. After the exit of the more affluent Wallings of Slackwood, Silverdale, who were no doubt connected, the various branches seem to be descended from John and Mary Walling, who by 1708 had become established at Bradshawgate*.

John Walling was a descendant of the Dyke House Wallings, who are recorded at Dyke House, Yealand Conyers, from 1605. John and Mary Walling, between 1706 and 1724, produced seven sons and one daughter, including Daniel who was baptized Oct. 20 1718 in Silverdale Chapel by James Atkinson. John Walling died in 1724. His wife, Mary, died in 1756.

This account is, however, about Daniel Walling and his descendants. From the Manor Court Book we learn that Daniel Walling became a tenant by alienation of Bradshaw Croft*, June 5 1746, yearly rent one shilling and sixpence. On April 7, 1750, Daniel Walling, 30, tailor of Silverdale, married Jane Jackson, 22, of Arnside, at Beetham Church. Their children were John, born 1753, Elizabeth, born 1754 and Daniel born 1757.

Daniel (senior) died in October 1760. His widow gave birth to Michael in early 1761 and lived until 1810, when she

died aged 87. John the elder son was heir to Bradshaw Croft*. However, a mariner on the ship Rockingham, of Lancaster, he sold the holding to his brother Daniel in 1779. Before his last voyage, he made his will, dated May 10 1779, leaving £5.00 to his sister, Elizabeth; five shillings each to his brothers, Michael and Daniel. His fiancée, Jane Banks of Heysham, who was also executor, got the remainder of his estate. John Walling was dead by August 1781; where is not known.

John's sister Elizabeth married William Jackson in July 1786, witnessed by Jane and John Banks. Daniel Walling (born 1757) and purchaser of Bradshaw Croft, was married at Warton, January 4 1785, to Isobella Oldfield of Whitwell, Yorkshire. Daniel gives his occupation as mariner, so who was doing the farming at Bradshaw Croft? One year later their only child Daniel Oldfield Walling was born.

About 1810 Daniel Oldfield Walling purchased Kellet Cottage, Sandside, Milnthorpe. These Wallings were timber merchants, purchasing local wood, also dealing in Swedish timber, advertising in the Kendal newspapers. Imported timber would come by boat to Dixies ** nearby: small ships from Liverpool came up the tidal estuary with cargoes, returning with slate, gunpowder products etc. Kellet Cottage had outbuildings and some small fields. It was demolished a few years ago by the quarry owners. In 1811 the Wallings advertised Bradshaw House to let with 11 acres. In September 1811 it was still to let now with 48 acres. Then in October 1811 it was offered for sale by auction at the Wheatsheaf Beetham but was not sold.

On May 13 1813 Daniel Oldfield Walling was married at Heversham Church to Elizabeth Bindloss, daughter of Mr. Christopher Bindloss of Helsington Laithes, a large farm on the outskirts of Kendal. The Bindloss family were of Heversham and prosperous. In October 1813 Daniel Walling advertised in great detail in the Kendal Chronicle for information of a missing horse, strayed or stolen from Haverbrack Common, with a two guineas reward. Daniel Walling died in September 1819 at Kellet House (sometimes called cottage), aged 62, burial at Warton. Whilst at Sandside, Daniel and Elizabeth had five children; Daniel, born 1814; Christopher and John, twins, born 1815, Christopher only surviving; Jane, born 1816 and dying 1822. William Jackson died in 1830.

In 1817 and 1818 the Wallings purchased wood on Witherslack Hall estate to the value of £438 and £451; also in the Arnside-Beetham districts these wood sales were on six months credit as custom, Lord Derby's representative coming to Milnthorpe each year to collect wood money etc. from clients. About 1820 Daniel Oldfield Walling formed a partnership with a Mr. Winder to manufacture pyroligneous acid*** from oak. This operation was at Backbarrow on the side of the river Leven. Daniel Oldfield Walling sold Kellet House to the Dallam estate for £528 and eight pence. Walling also owned a cottage at Storth, which was for sale. The Backbarrow firm engaged in acid manufacture became Walling and Winder.

While residing at nearby Haverthwaite four more births took place; Thomas Watson born 1820; Michael 1821; Frederick 1823; and in 1824 Elizabeth who only lived two

months. The Lancaster Gazette dated November 27, 1824 recorded Walling's death ; "On Saturday last of the smallpox, aged 39 Daniel Oldfield Walling, one of the proprietors of the Acid Manufacturers at Backbarrow and an extensive wood and hoop dealer. In recording the death of this worthy man, we may say in justice to his memory, that he lived highly respected and died sincerely regretted by a large circle of acquaintance. As a man of business he was honourable and entertaining, as a friend warmhearted and generous. We shrink from the task of describing the weight of affliction that must fall upon his aged mother, his widow and seven small children, who survive to deplore the loss of one who sustained the duties of a husband, son and father."

The burial was at Warton. The family then moved to Kendal, but little is known of it. In 1830 William Jackson Walling, aged 11, was buried at Warton. In 1835 Bradshaw House was again for sale by auction, tenant John Rawlinson, but was not sold. At the 1841 census the family is residing at Entry Lane, Kendal, but briefly: Daniel Walling, son, is a tea dealer; Christopher Walling a wine merchant; Michael Walling a surgeon's assistant. The 1851 census shows the family (except for Christopher who was in Kendal) back at Bradshaw House - Daniel as farmer, Thomas as fisherman. Daniel lived as a batchelor until 1883 and it is unclear whether he did any serious farming; he may have let some land, though it is unclear if he was the outright owner or just a shareholder. He left a legacy to a Miss Bisbrown, who may have helped with household duties. Christopher, the wine and spirits merchant of Kendal, a batchelor also, had premises in Lowther street. He operated in Kendal until 1870 when he was declared bankrupt.

In May 1870 Derome the Kendal auctioneer sold by auction at 16 Lowther St. the stock in trade of C. Walling including large stocks of wine and port and other effects including a fowling piece. Christopher then went to Bradshaw House, living until November 1871, being described as yeoman with estate of £15. Nothing is known of Thomas Watson Walling, fisherman unless he is the Thomas Walling of Carnforth of later date. Frederick, born 1823, was foreman at the works of Garnett, Waller & Co. in Kendal. There are no details of his wife Mary Anne. Their son, Gilbert Frederick, was baptized at St. Thomas', Kendal, April 10, 1865. In April 1868, the Kendal Mercury reported a presentation to Mr. Gilbert Walling, foreman in the tailoring department on his departure from Kendal.

The Wallings still seem to have been in Kendal in 1873. Michael Walling, RN, was recorded with the family in the Kendal census of 1841, listed as Surgeon's assistant, then around 20 years of age. It is not known where he was trained but naval records show that he would have had time to visit family in Silverdale. His death was reported briefly in the Lancaster and Kendal newspapers, saying he received a ball in his thigh in the Lagos skirmish, which he carried for the rest of his life and to his grave. His burial was at Warton on July 1873. On the death of Michael Walling, Staff Surgeon in the Royal Navy, Frederick took on the administration of his late brother's affairs; their mother, Elizabeth refusing administration. She died in December 1875. Frederick Walling died at Silverdale in June 1874, and his widow and son, Gilbert, remained there for the next few years, but in 1881 Mary Anne Walling, widow of Frederick, married George Carpenter at Horse Ferry Road,

London. At some stage Gilbert Frederick Walling came to reside at Bradshaw House with his Uncle Daniel, who died in 1883. Gilbert Frederick Walling was married at Silverdale on March 17th, 1886 to Ethel Alice Crossley of Silverdale, daughter of David Crossley, gardener. Gilbert gives his occupation as book-keeper. The 1891 census records him as a labourer in the Paint Mines, perhaps he was recording weights as part of his duties. They appear to have had four children in the next few years. Christopher Walling, his uncle, lived until December 1891. Gilbert Frederick then seems to have inherited. And he is mentioned in press reports about the Silverdale school dispute around this time. Tragedy, however, was not far away; his son, John William was buried in April 1892, aged 3; his wife, Ethel Alice died at Bradshaw House in May 1893, the cause of death was chronic alcoholism; Alice Walling, aged 2, was buried in October 1893. In August 1893 Gilbert Frederick Walling sold Bradshaw House and some land for £890, purchaser Mr. Bolton, auctioneer Thomas Wilson. One year later two small fields were sold. Nothing more is known of Gilbert and his two remaining children until the 1901 census.

At the 1901 census for Lambeth, London, the household of a family, Clark, also contains Elizabeth M. Walling, aged 13, great niece, born Silverdale, Lancs. and Gilbert Frederick Walling, aged 12, great nephew, born Silverdale, Lancs. Where was father Gilbert? All that is known of him (Gilbert Frederick Walling of Bradshaw Cottage, Silverdale, according to the death certificate) is that he died at 2 Quernmore Rd., Lancaster on 25 March 1932, aged 71 (it should be 67), his occupation

was given as general labourer and the cause of death, acute bronchitis; the informant was F. Tomlinson, 2 Quernmore Rd.

*There is some confusion in that sometimes the property is referred to as Bradshaw *Croft*, sometimes Bradshaw *House*, sometimes Bradshaw *Cottage*. It seems the one building was Bradshaw *House* and Bradshaw *Cottage* adjoining; these together with the accompanying land was Bradshaw *Croft*.

** 'Dixies' was an Inn at Sandside, now the Flippin Flook Restaurant.

***pyroligneous acid produces creosote, among other things. (J.R. Partington, *A History of Chemistry*, 1961, Vol.2, p359).

'THE INGENIOUS MR. WITHERS' REVISITED
R.D.Escolme

For the 1984 Mourholme Magazine, Volume II, No.4 Bertha Whitaker wrote an article entitled 'The Ingenious Mr. Withers', shipbuilder and shipwright and wondered if this Mr. Withers and Robert Wither, the local farmer/Quaker missionary, were one and the same. More recently, a local historian gave a talk and claimed in passing, that Robert Wither was a resident of Yealand. The object of this note is to refute both claims. (I have, as they say, to declare an interest as a long-time resident of Over Kellet. It is my belief that Robert was no shipbuilder; lived at Over Kellet and at no time had permanent residence outside the village. We have few enough Kelletians of repute, to acquiesce silently to a take-over by Yealand!)

Taking the article written by Bertha Whitaker; firstly, a small point, she spells his name Withers – with an 's'. 'Our' Robert Wither or Widder, has no 's'.

Secondly, the name Widder or Wither in Robert Wither's day, unlike today, was not an uncommon one. In the Tunstall and Melling register alone, there were no less than 27 names of various spellings and, of course, the name crops up in other parishes. There was a sprinkling of Roberts among these and, plainly, we cannot ascribe all the activities of any Robert Wither to our man.

Thirdly, it is highly unlikely that Robert Wither, the Quaker missionary and farmer, had time to be a

shipbuilder/shipwright as well. A brief summary of what we know of his life may help here. He was born on or about June 13th 1619 into a family of tenant/freehold farmers. (The first reference to Widder I have seen is in the Hornby estate accounts for 1529.) Robert's father died on March 18th 1622-23, and a John Wither (?uncle) was his guardian until the boy came of age. Taking over the running of the farm, Robert prospered and was able to buy a second farm in the village in the 1640s. In the 1650s he rented more land, and bought and exchanged some, from which it is reasonable to assume that he was a competent man of business, as well as a successful farmer with his 'nose to the grindstone'. To match the description of 'shipwright', or ship's carpenter, he would have needed to have served a seven year apprenticeship in his youth. Shakespeare had his 'missing years'. Did Robert? It seems unlikely.

George Fox wrote of addressing a meeting at Robert Wither's in August 1652, invited there, perhaps, after Robert heard Fox speak at an earlier meeting at Preston Patrick? Wither later accompanied Fox over much of the north of England and Scotland. He also went with Fox and Richard Hubberthorne to London to petition Charles II and was with Fox on their eventful voyages to and from America from August 1671 to June 1673. If we add Wither's missionary activities to his farming, that does not leave much spare time for practising any carpentry skills in shipbuilding. We must not forget also, that Robert spent considerable lengths of time in prison. He was incarcerated in Lancaster gaol 'several times', according to John Beakbane, and also in Carlisle. He served

some two and a half years from 1659 at Lancaster, probably his longest sentence.

Turning to the other claim that Robert Wither lived at Yealand, there is plenty of evidence to the contrary. For instance, in his many brushes with the authorities – constables, magistrates, tithe farmers etc. – Wither is always ‘of Kellett’. The evidence is cumulative. Briefly, Fox mentioned his stays with Wither at Kellet in the 1650s and ‘60s. In 1664, Robert’s son, Thomas, was married at William Hugginson’s ‘Yelland’ house, when it would have been reasonable to suppose that if Robert lived there, Thomas and his bride Margaret Hadwen of Carnforth, would have been married at home. Hugh Cornthwaite and Esther Leaper of Capernwray, however, ‘tooke each other in marriage...in the house of Robert Wither of ‘Upper Kellet’ in 1673’. Wither was resident at Kellet with his wife Jane when the *Register of Recusants* was made in 1678. In the 1680s, Wither and other Friends were fined for holding conventicles at Wither’s house in Kellet. Through all these years, a Robert Wither of Kellet signed, as witness, documents such as deeds of his fellow Kellet parishioners.

To this observer, Robert lived and died in Over Kellet.

That, as I thought, was the end of my note. I shut down the computer and went to bed. I woke during the night and was struck by a thought. 1673 was the year when Robert Wither returned from America. It was also the year when ‘the ingenious Withers’ went with John Evelyn to see the King. What if ...

I waited until 7.00 am before consulting John Evelyn’s diary and came across: ‘28th [May 1673] I carried one, Withers, an ingenious shipwright, to the King, to show him some new method of building’. Robert Wither on that date was still across the Atlantic and did not reach Bristol until June 28th. Not even the ingenious one could be in two places at once. It seems safe to say the Quaker Robert Wither was no shipbuilder.

Sources;

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Congregational Union of England and Wales Inc. London c. 1921. The original material quoted in this book has, unfortunately, recently been forwarded from the Yealand Meeting to Preston.

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Sundry parish records.

ORAL HISTORY: RON JOHNSON
John Findlater

Born Waterloo Lodge, Bolton-le-Sands on 29.3.20.
Interviewed at his home "Raffles", Haverbreaks, Lancaster on 5.3.96.

Ron Johnson's father was a motor engineer who was working at Dean's garage on Scotland rd., in Carnforth at the time of Ron's birth. The garage would then be owned by Mr Preston. His mother, maiden name Townson, was daughter of a butcher in Bolton-le-Sands. He was the third child of six – four boys and two girls. One sister and two brothers were still alive. One of his earliest memories was of Dr. Jackson arriving in his horse and trap to officiate at his mother's confinement.

He went to school at Bolton-le-Sands boys' school, which had, he supposed, about 40 boys. Mrs. Garth was the teacher. He stayed until he was 12 and then went to Dallas Road school in Lancaster, his father having found a job in Lancaster as a motor engineer, in 1932. Ron left school at 14 years old, at first working as a delivery boy for the Co-op. Then in 1937 he managed to get a job with Curry's being interested in radio and electrical work.

On 3 September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany and he immediately joined up in the air-force and by October he was 'square bashing', and sent for spells to radio school, and gunnery school before being posted to 224 squadron, who flew Beauforts and was transferred to Hudsons which carried torpedoes. In 1942 he was sent to Little Rissington, in

Gloucestershire on pilot training course after which he flew Hudsons and then B 24s (Liberators) which he flew for the rest of his service, devoted mainly to flying over the sea lanes and Bay of Biscay hunting submarines. On a number of occasions his plane was heavily engaged with U-boats and he sank one. He was involved in several severe crashes and on one occasion the plane was hit while over Germany and two of the four engines caught fire and though they made it back to Britain the plane came down two miles short of the runway, on fire and breaking up; Ron was the sole survivor.

At the end of 1943 Ron came off flying duties due to his eyesight not being satisfactory and was then Signals Officer at Shoeberry and in the course of his work was involved in some important research on the magnetic north pole. He came out of the RAF in 1945.

Ron had married in 1942 in Lancaster. His wife was from Lancaster. Their only son, Tony, was born in 1943. Ron had been clever enough to keep his father as his nominated next of kin after his marriage, thus allowing his wife to visit him at his various postings.

On discharge from the RAF, partly on his father's advice, he started up a business selling and repairing radios in Carnforth, at 59 Lancaster Road. In 1951, when a shop came vacant in Market Street he moved there, and the Johnsons lived above the shop.

He freely admitted that much of his success was due to the fact that his wife took over the running of the shop and the

administrative side of the business while he spent all his time on the technical side.

He was lucky to be in at the beginning of the TV era; beginning about 1952 this mushroomed. One of Ron's most successful business initiatives was made possible because he had known Dennis Rigg for 50 years; Dennis had been a spitfire pilot (see Magazine) and they had met again at Gibraltar in the war and they were great friends. Through this connection, Ron was given permission to erect a radio mast in Rigg's Builders' yard at the end of Oxford Street. He was then able to boost radio signals to supply growing numbers of customers in the council estates in particular.

Ron found Carnforth a happy, friendly town. He worked day and night with no hobbies, or holidays. He had frequent friendly contacts with most of the businessmen and shopkeepers - Joe Briggs, the chemist; 'Billy Williams' the butcher; Norman Emley, furniture store shop; Joe Pomfret the barber; Dr Edward Jackson and Fred Helm. Many of these he used to meet at the Conservative Club, though he did not go all that often since he drank very little alcohol. Another resident of the town who seems to stick in his mind was Joe Bowman, who drove old Dr Jackson around and he also remembered Dr Edward driving a Ford V 8 car. George Harrison was a good friend. He always got on very well with John Easter Roberts (Railwayman and Council Worthy as well as local historian). He had also joined the Freemasons at Sedbergh largely influenced by friends at Tebay, but he was never very enthusiastic about it.

Ron retired from his business in 1970 but kept ownership of the building. But the next year, 1971, he bought Ireton's shop in Market St., which was an ironmongers with attached blacksmith's shop, really for his son Tony, but both Ron and his wife worked there most of the time. The business had been founded in 1896 by ?. Jim Ireton of Priest Hutton had bought it in 1913 and then Jimmy Lupton, who had worked there during the thirties and forties bought the business (date uncertain) together with Edward Baker and another businessman; gradually Jimmy bought them out. Then in 1971 Jimmy was ready to sell and Ron bought the business and the property which included the car park. The blacksmith was a man called Cannon Dixon who was very good at making horseshoes; he had a helper Edward (Ted) Stephenson who was a helper and who later ran the smithy. Ron has a memory of the blacksmiths trying to shoe shire horses in the course of which they tied the horses' legs together and put them on their sides to do the work.

Asked about the rail strikes in the fifties, Ron thought the unions had done themselves a great deal of harm; whereas before so much of their supplies had come by rail afterwards it was all shifted to road delivery. Railways decline was swift in Carnforth.

POPULATION CHANGES IN WARTON PARISH IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Jean Chatterley and John Findlater

Until the 1840s the rural population of England had grown at a steady rate; thereafter, and especially after 1860, it declined steadily. During these first four decades of the century, there had been an increase of population in the rural parish of Warton. There had been a surging increase of 476 from 1801 to 1821, then the increase slowed, only 159 being added from 1821 to 1841, after which Warton Parish lost population from 1841 to 1851 before increasing a little again, so that Warton Parish population in 1861 (2161) was 37.9% higher than in 1801 (1574); the main township Warton-with-Lindeth had increased by only 25%. (see Fig.1)

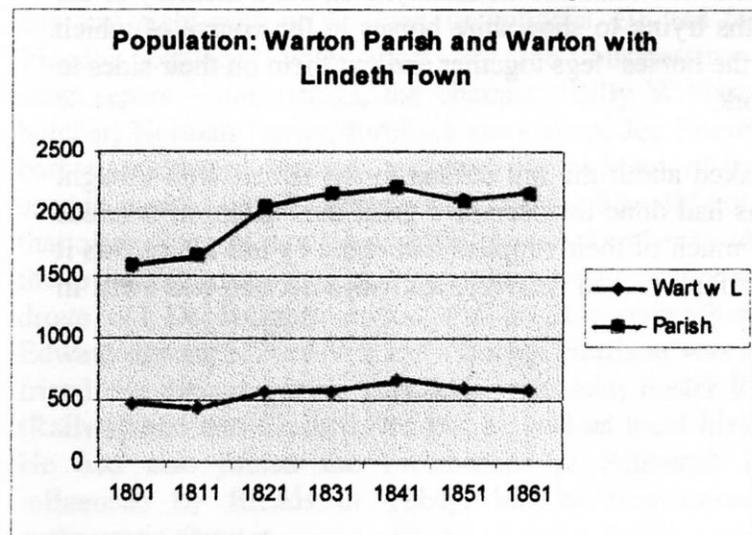


Fig. 1

These bald statistics of population change were the result of changes in social and economic conditions, especially those involving land tenure; fewer farm labourers were needed as mechanisation was introduced, and many traditional rural crafts and cottage industries ceased in the face of insurmountable competition from the mass produced goods from the new industrial areas. People moved as, dictated by 'push' and 'pull' factors, they sought to do best for themselves and their families; often the move was no further than the next village. Perhaps one can infer from the statistics that the parish in 1841 had just about reached the limit of its economic sustainability.

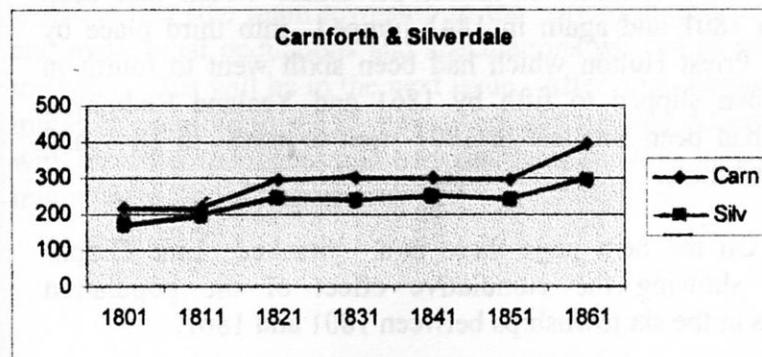
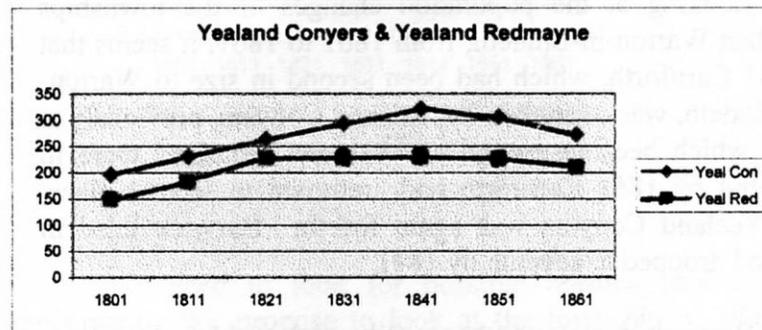
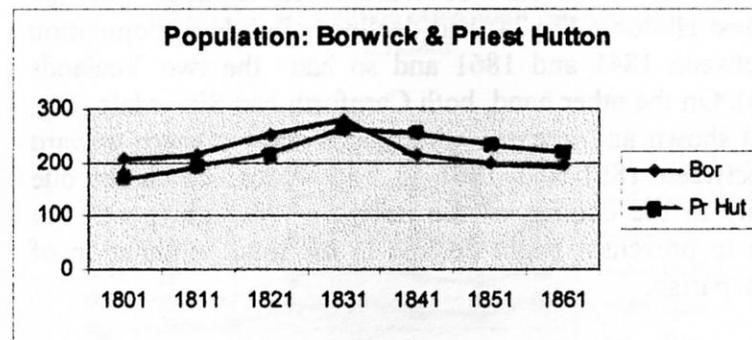
The birthrate had not been declining but considerable emigration had been occurring. The Lancaster Gazette 15 May 1827 describes how 30 people from the Preston area went by way of Liverpool across to the USA.. "Clever mechanics accustomed to £2 per week [who] had lately" only been able to earn "20-24s." The paper of 29 March 1834, referring to female emigration, said that females, 15-30 yrs old, going to New South Wales had opportunities; "old maids are as rare as black swans, the most fair emigrants receive offers of marriage through speaking trumpets before they land from the ship". On 19 July 1834 the paper reported that emigrants going via Liverpool to the United States of America and the British Colonies during the quarter ending 30th June had numbered 11,625. And on 18 April 1835 that from 1.5.1833 to 31.3.1835, going from Liverpool to New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania) there had been 1,443 souls and to British settlements in North America 2024, totalling 3467: to the United States 30,533 making a grand total of 34,000. Whether

people in great numbers were going from this parish in the tide of emigration overseas is not certain, but this might partially explain the population changes described above. The townships making up the parish were all (seven) agricultural townships, and possibly suffered the difficulties in agricultural affairs which had been aggravated by the recent wars with France and so people may have been leaving for better opportunities in industrial areas or abroad.

The population of Warton Parish (that is to say, the total populations of the seven townships) increased by 37.29% between 1801 and 1861. In 1861, though Warton-with-Lindeth remained the largest township and centre as it had been since 1801, it had suffered relative decline. There were changes in the other six townships which were under the same economic pressures as they affected agriculture and spreading industrialization. Since it is very difficult to disentangle a composite line graph of these six, small townships growing only slightly, (Warton-with-Lindeth is already shown in Fig.1), the situation has been shown as three separate graphs (Figs. 2a, b and c on the page opposite). Fig. 2a shows Borwick and Priest Hutton; Fig. 2b shows Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne; Figure 2c shows Carnforth and Silverdale.

These different townships arranged around the larger township of Warton-with-Lindeth all had populations about half the latter's size. The rank order of size of these townships changed from decade to decade. They varied in each case, no doubt, due to their individual differences which sometimes are obvious and sometimes a matter of speculation.

Figs. 2a; 2b; 2c



Just as in the case of Warton-with-Lindeth, Borwick and Priest Hutton (Fig.2a) had declined slightly in population size between 1841 and 1861 and so had the two Yealands (Fig.2b). On the other hand, both Carnforth had Silverdale (Fig. 2c) had shown an increase – the graphs show a sharp upward flick between 1851 and 1861 in both cases, no doubt due primarily to the coming of the railway - though it was not enough to prevent a slight decline in the total population of Warton parish.

Looking at the population changes of the townships other than Warton-in-Lindeth, from 1801 to 1861, it seems that by 1841 Carnforth, which had been second in size to Warton-with-Lindeth, was overtaken by Yealand Conyers, previously at fourth, which became second in 1841 and remained there in 1851 but by 1861 Carnforth had returned to second place, when Yealand Conyers was again fourth; Borwick third in 1801 had dropped to seventh by 1841.

Borwick remained there; Silverdale which had been fifth in 1801 and again in 1841 jumped into third place by 1861; Priest Hutton which had been sixth went to fourth in 1841 then slipped to fifth by 1861 and Yealand Redmayne which had been smallest in 1801 went to sixth in 1841 and remained there.

On the next page there is a 'Stacked Line Graph' (Fig.3) showing the cumulative effect of the population changes in the six townships between 1801 and 1861.

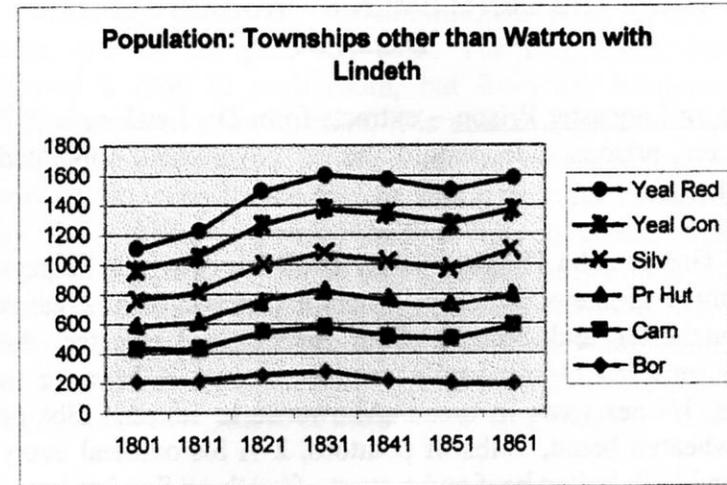


Fig.3

We need to look for possible reasons behind such movements. We propose to look at the township of Warton-with-Lindeth (the main township in the parish) more carefully and make what deductions and speculations we can about this township. This will be in the next issue. After that **perhaps** it might be possible to see if there were any marked differences with the other townships and between them and this, hopefully, might be in the next issue after that.

FROM THE GENTLEMEN'S MAGAZINE OF 1806

Dianne Dey

Report on Lancaster Prison – extracts from Dr. Lettform's 29th letter on prisons. He would be a government-appointed inspector.

Gaoler John Higgins, salary £600 out of which he pays £3 to three turnkeys. When prisoners are convicted at Preston or Manchester and brought from thence to Lancaster, the Keeper receives 1/- per mile conduct money. Allowance to debtors, 1/- per week in bread. Allowance to felons, 6lbs of good wheaten bread, 10lbs of potatoes, 2 ½ lbs oatmeal every week and ½ lb boiled beef and a quart of broth on Sunday.

Chaplain, Rev. John Woodrow. Duty Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. Salary £50 and from the Duchy £46 and from the Sheriff 15/- for his attendance upon every Protestant malefactor who suffers death. Roman Catholics are attended by a priest of their own religion.

Surgeon – Mr. Baxendale, salary £20 and allowances for medicine. [Frequent in his visits.]

Remarks

The gaoler's house is a handsome building and well-situated for commanding a view of the spacious courtyard. The female debtors' prison is a room in the Gateway (their courtyard is in common with the men). It contains two night rooms in the Dungeon Tower, each 23 feet 9" x 15 feet, a day room a wash house adjoining, six workrooms and two well-ventilated rooms for the sick.

Every debtor on his commitment pays 7/6d towards costs, and 2/- for pots and pans. The magistrates formerly allowed a mop to each room, but from the insolence and extravagance of some debtors, it is now discontinued. When a poor debtor cannot pay for coals etc. he generally does servile work of the room in lieu thereof, and if he cannot immediately pay for a bed, he obtains half a bed on credit, which is occasionally paid for out of the Charity Fund by the Keeper. When the number of debtors does not exceed 70 or 80, many sleep in single beds, but when more, they are under the necessity of taking a bed-fellow. At present there are only three single beds in the whole of the debtors' apartments.

Of the debtors, I was disappointed to observe only two out of seventy six attended prayers, though the following order is stuck up in various parts of the prison: [abridged] "As at the General Half Sessions of the Peace, in the 17th year of King George III's reign, it appears to this court ...that several prisoners, being members of the C of E. and having no lawful excuse, make a common practice of absenting themselves from Divine Service and misbehaving themselves during services. It is therefore ordered by this court that any prisoner (excluding Roman Catholics and Quakers) who have no lawful excuse shall absent him or herself from attending Divine Service or shall in any way misbehave, such prisoners shall immediately be deprived of County Allowance...the Treasurer shall strike his/her name out of his book".

A spirit of restlessness has been introduced into this prison, as well as others by forming Committees of association, or Secrecy, as they term it and a correspondence with the

King's Bench prison, by which they are led to believe that the gaoler has no control over them and sometimes set him at defiance...has caused an abridgement to the debtors of some of those comforts which the liberality of the County had provided for them, and which their errors and distresses claim from the humanity of the virtuous and more fortunate part of mankind.

Charity Legacies to Debtors' Prison.

From Mrs. Henrietta Rigby's executor, to 12 of the most necessitous and well-behaved prisoners, 5/- each, paid by the Mayor of Lancaster on the first day of March every year ...£3.

Every prisoner on the criminal side has a straw mat, a straw or hair bed, 3 blankets, a quilt and receives one third of his earnings; and the profit on their labour is sometimes equal to maintenance.

In the Great Tower, there are two large day rooms, one of which is called the Quaker Room because it is said, when those people were so cruelly persecuted in the 17th century, vast numbers of them were confined in it, 43 feet x 25 feet. The workshops adjoining are for carding, spinning and three for weaving.

I remarked that the felons were particularly clean when I attended Divine Service and was informed they were obliged to wash their hands and face every morning before they receive their allowance. Their behaviour was silent and attentive and the countenances of the numerous prisoners showed their love

and respect to the Gaoler, who to his great humanity and firmness adds religious regards.

In the excellent management of this prison, which from its situation in a very populous and maritime county is seldom without atrocious felons, there is the most clear and demonstrative proof, how much more *humanity* and *firmness* operate to promote penitence and reformation than harshness and severity which I have frequently witnessed, make the criminal desperate and rather harden than reform. [Of the 90 felons etc. not one was in irons; they were all usefully and peaceably at work.]

Convicts for transportation have not the King's allowance of 2/6d a week.

In 1805: debtors 74; felons etc. 58; lunatics 5.

Net earnings of the Crown prisoners paid to the Treasury of the County in 1805 were £184-10-4d.

Excellent though this gaol is, there is no place where a person in a deranged state of mind can be kept separate from other prisoners. At present there are two lunatics who are furiously mad ...the Keeper and Turnkeys are greatly endangered. It appears a very desirable object that they should be kept in a hospital where, by medical aid and proper treatment, they might be rendered more comfortable.

Do we appreciate today the degree of humanitarian concern that was practiced even before the advent of the Victorian philanthropists? Whatever 'proper' treatment was, the heart-in-mind approach is fully evident.

NOTES ON THE EVENING MEETINGS 2004-5
Jenny Ager

9th September 2004

History of Carnforth Railway Station by Clive Holden

Members and guests filled the meeting room at Carnforth Railway Station for Clive Holden's talk on the History of Carnforth Railway. Our new venue was certainly most appropriate as Clive showed pictures and described the development of the railway from its beginning in the 1840s, as part of the line from London to Glasgow and told of some of the personalities, events and changes to the railway through the years until the recent redevelopment.

14th October 2004

'Jiggers' and 'Swelks' by Dr. H. Walklett

At this meeting the intriguing mysteries of 'Jiggers' and 'Swelks' were unraveled when Dr. Hilary Walklett of the Department of Continuing Education at Lancaster University gave a fascinating talk.

Dr Walklett told a large group of members and visitors that people have probably used the waters of Morecambe Bay for moving goods and people since ancient times. There are certainly records of a Roman port, Setantiorum, somewhere near Poulton-le-Fylde.

He proposed the interesting idea that the the prosperity of the communities around Morecambe Bay, between the end of the 17th and early 19th centuries was fostered by the jiggers that traded between the towns and other small settlements on the shores of the Bay and even as far afield as Scotland, Ireland and Wales. These small flat-bottomed sailing boats carried some of their cargoes in the locally made swill baskets or

swelks. Passengers and livestock were transported and other goods included iron and iron products from Furness, coal, limestone for building and fertilizer, wooden products such as bobbins and the swelks themselves, flat-packed for self-assembly in the best Ikea tradition.

If you go to Glasson Dock today, you can still see boats from the Baltic countries with their cargoes of timber; this trade has been carried out since at least the 1680s bringing wood for boat-builders such as Crossfields at Arnside.

11th November 2004

Lakeland Old Crafts and Industries by Andrew Lowe

Members and visitors at the Mourholme Local History Society's November meeting were encouraged to look beyond the usual picture postcard view of the Lake District's scenery. Andrew Lowe of the National Park Authority reminded the audience that the scenery of rocks, woodland and water could be equated with an industrial landscape as depicted by L.S. Lowry. From Neolithic axe factories to quarrying for slate and limestone and mining for copper, the signs are all around. The woodland provided charcoal for iron smelting, the raw material for swill baskets and bobbins, and bark for tanning leather. Water provided both power and transport.

We can still visit examples of industrial buildings such as Duddon Mill and Stott Park Bobbin Mill. A trip to the Lakes will never be the same again as we try to read the clues to our industrial heritage.

9th December 2004

The Pendle Witches by Christine Goodier

Members enjoyed a delicious buffet, provided by the refreshment rooms at Carnforth Railway Station. Christine Goodier, manager of part of Lancaster Castle, then gave a

fascinating talk, giving insights into the real story behind the trial of the Pendle witches at Lancaster Castle in 1612. Christine is writing a book based on the proceedings of the trial, written by Thomas Potts, clerk of the court. The "Wonderful Discoverie of Witches in the Countie of Lancaster" was published 1613 and a reprinted version is available at the Castle.

13th January 2005

The Other Wallace Collection by Dr. and Mrs. H.Fancy

Many people know of the collection of fine and decorative art on display at Hertford House in London, collected between 1802 and 1875 and bequeathed to the nation by Lady Wallace in 1897. At about the same time another Wallace, Joseph Ritson, set off on a 17 month trading voyage to the Pacific Islands and the west coast of America. When he returned to Liverpool in 1833, he had gathered a vast collection of artifacts, natural history specimens and other curiosities, which he used to form the basis of a museum, first in Douglas on the Isle of Man and later in Distington, near Whitehaven. The final destination of all the 25,000 specimens, when the collection was sold in 1899, after Wallace's death, is not known, although one piece of pottery did end up in the British Museum.

Harry Fancy, former curator of the Whitehaven museum and his wife Margaret, intrigued members with their talk, "The Other Wallace Collection", about Joseph Ritson Wallace, this man of many parts, sugar refiner, artist, newspaper editor, taxidermist and museum founder.

February 10th 2005

A History of Landscape Protection in the Lake District

By Mr. Varley, Friends of the Lake District

The rugged beauty of the Lake District has not always been appreciated as it is today. Until the picturesque and romantic movements of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, untamed and wild landscape was feared rather than admired. But since the 1840s, trains and then cars have brought increasing numbers of city people, keen to experience the romantic scenery of mountains and lakes.

Martin Varley, conservation officer of the Friends of the Lake District, spoke to members of the Mourholme Local History Society at their February meeting. He described some of the pressures on the Lake District, forestation, water and mineral extraction, overhead wires, speed limits, road building, traffic and wind farms for example. The Friends of the Lake District have been working alongside other organisations, for more than 70 years, to protect and enhance the special qualities of the Lake District and Cumbria, while supporting public access for quiet recreation, and research into sustainable solutions to problems for local communities.

March 10th 2005

The Lancashire Way of Death

By Dr. E. Roberts

For the March meeting of the Mourholme Local History Society, members heard of the changes in attitudes and customs surrounding death in an interesting talk given by Dr Elizabeth Roberts from Lancaster University.

Her talk, 'The Lancashire Way of Death', was based on interviews she did between 1972 and 1980, of people born at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries. The people from Barrow, Lancaster and Preston, recalled the rituals including funeral processions, visiting houses to view the body, neighbours helping out and the food. These unique and fascinating records are being transferred to sound archives at Clitheroe and will be available as a resource to future historians.

The April meeting will be held in the meeting room at Carnforth station at 7.30pm, after the AGM Clive Holden will talk about the railway. The magazine will have been printed before this meeting, so it will not be possible to include a summary of Clive's talk in this issue.

PROGRAMME 2005-2006

(Indoor Meetings at the Carnforth Railway Station Meeting Room, 7.30 pm).

Subscription - £9 for individual members, £17 for family or school members. Visitors are welcome at a fee of £1-50 each meeting.

Summer Outdoor Meetings 2005 (£1.50 charge)

Non-members welcome. Contact M. Wright, 01524 701258

Sat. 21st May Shap Abbey & Shap Heritage Centre, **Meet at 2.15pm** at the Abbey Car Park (Grid Ref. 548 153) one mile east of the village (signposts from the A6 in Shap). Guided visit around the Abbey

Thurs. 23rd June Historical Walk round Carnforth led by C. Holden and M. Wright. **Meet at 7pm** at the bottom end of Hawk St., (Grid ref. 500 706) – runs between Scotland Rd. and North Rd.

Sat. 30th July Historical Walk around Sedbergh. **Meet at 2.15 pm.** in Joss Lane Car Park (Grid ref. 659 922) near east end of the main street. Leader Joyce Scobie of Sedbergh & District History Society.

Indoor Meetings Autumn 2005

September 8th Folklore and Popular Beliefs – all true!.
Peter Watson

October 13th Harriet Martineau – unsung heroine of the 19th C
Barbara Todd, author.

November 10th One Hundred and Thirty Years of Shipbuilding
at Barrow. Graham Sharpe, BAE Systems

December 8th Christmas Buffet (must book) followed by
"Why Do We Do That?" -Clifford Astin

Indoor Meetings Spring 2006

January 12th Horse Transport and Draft Animals
Dr. R. Vickers.

February 9th King Arthur and the Lost Kingdom of Rheged.
Tom Clare

March 9th Dialect and Accent in Britain..
Dr. K.M. Petyt

April 13th AGM (Mystery) Speaker to be arranged.

Visitors welcome. Fee £1.50